

¶ A Lamentable, and  
pitifull Description, of the  
*wofull warres in Flaun-*  
ders, since the foure last  
yeares of the Emperor  
Charles the fifth  
his raigne.

*With a brieve rehearsall of many*  
things done since that season,  
vntill this present yeare,  
and death of Don  
Iohn.

*Written by Thomas Churchyarde*  
Gentleman.

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To the Right Honorable,  
Sir *Frauncis Walsingham* Knight,  
Principall Secretarie to the Queenes  
Maiestie, and one of hir Highnesse molt Hono-  
rable priue Counsaile, T H O. C H V R C H -  
Y A R D wisheth continuance of noble  
giftes, and increase of vertues.

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Ome men (righte Ho-  
norable) searche many  
soyles, and trauell very  
farre, to finde out a pre-  
tious Jewell or rare de-  
uise, to presente vnto their friende when  
they come home. And gayning by their  
gift and honest intent a thankefull bene-  
fite and special good turne, makes of their  
labours a pleasure and cōmoditie. But I,  
that often haue bin abroad for the like  
purpose, and heere at home haue soughte  
the bottome of my studie, and sifted out  
the best frute, that eyther deuise of head,

A.ij.

or

## THE EPISTLE

or paynes with my penne could yeeld, can not finde any thing worthy acceptation, where I made promise, and purposed long ago, to offer a presente. And the longer I haue tarried (and looked about me) the worse I am furnished for the answering of my hope, and the lesse able I feele my iudgemente, to performe that I purpose: like a mā that would fayne trauell a great iourney, hauing a weak body, and a lusty mind. And before he commes halfe way to the ende of his pilgrimage: his legges waxe lame, and he calleth for his crutche, and yet when there is no remedy, must either of force hoppe homewarde againe, or hale forward as fast as he may, to come to the knitting vp of his attempted labour. But though with like weakenes my body is discouraged (when the mind glories too much in his owne strength,) yet another thing comforts me, which may be a great help to my smal ability, & a special cause  
to

## DEDICATORIE.

to find thereby some singular fauour. Sir,  
the troth is, I heare that others haue sped  
wel, & were well liked, for presenting to  
your honourable discretiō, the iudgement  
of their Bookes: and creeping vnder the  
buckler & sheld of such courtesie, though  
not with such matter as is meete for your  
wisdom, I humbly presente you with a  
breefe discourse that I haue drawne out,  
touching the troubles & afflictiō of Flā-  
ders, not gathered out of other mē's gar-  
dens (the more my ouersight) as the Bee  
sucketh forth honey from seuerall sweete  
floures, but collected and takē frō the cō-  
passe of mine owne knowledge & experi-  
ence of our time, in the view of mine eye,  
& reach of my reason. Yet had I beauti-  
fied my Boke, with the depe iudgemēts of  
my betters, & filled the empty places &  
sētēces voyd of learning, with some boro-  
wed tearmes & fine trāslatiōs, as wisely  
& lernedlie some haue done, my ignorāce

A. iij.

and



## THE EPISTLE

*and boldnesse heerein so soone had not  
bin espyed, and I might haue found more  
pillers and proppes to haue susteyned  
vp from falling a long season, my weake  
and feeble workmanship, and tottering  
building: but wanting that prouision and  
foresight, and bringing frō the Printer  
my Booke, I make my selfe and my cre-  
dite subiecte to the worldes reporte, and  
must desire your honorable countenance,  
to the furthering of my good name, and  
liking of my worke. And for that if late  
you were Embassadour in Flaunders,  
and haue bin long acquainted with the  
causes of that Countrey, I haue dedica-  
ted my paynes heerein to your hands and  
protection, minding, if this be well accep-  
ted (as I doubt not but it shall be) to set  
forth another worke, called, the calami-  
tie of Fraunce, the bloody broyles of  
Germany, the persecution of Spayne,  
the*

## DEDICATORIE.

*the misfortune of Portingall, the troubles of Scotlande, the miserie of Irelande, and the blessed state of England, as knoweth the Lord of all Kingdomes, who accomplish and fulfil the good course your noble mind hath held, and make your desired hope to be as happy as your well wonne fame doth deserue honoure.*

At your honorable commaundement, Thomas  
Churchyard.







¶ *Flaunders bewayles with bitter so-*  
row, the soare affliction of hir state  
and Countrey.



He vvife, that hath hir husband lost,  
alone may sit and vvaile, (cheekes  
Whose teares faste trickle dovvne hir  
as thicke as shovvres of hayle.

The friend that farre is from his feere,  
and vvants a faithfull mate,  
By viewve of foe, and fraude of vvorld,  
lamentes his losse to late.

The labring man, that sees his land  
lye vvaste for vvant of plovve,  
And can not vvell supply his lack,  
is fraught vvith sorovv throwv.

The sadde and heauie minded vvight,  
(of ioy that takes no holde,)  
As mirrh forsakes the stricken breast,  
hath hart full deade and colde.

The Merchaunt vvhom the Pyrate spoyles,  
and in vvide vvorld is last,  
May blame the vviles of vvicked heades,  
and cursse their cunning crafte.

The Captaine vvhich no souldiers hath,  
who lost his force by fight,

B.

. Doth

## *The Lamentation*

Doth fold: his armes, and vwrings his handes,  
and sorrovvcs day and night.

But none of those compares vvith me,  
that left am as you knowv,

In friendlesse fort, vvith many babes,  
like vvidovve full of vvoe:

That each man vvronges and fewve do help,  
and in myne aged dayes,

Am made a pray to people straunge,  
that plagues me many vvayes.

I flourish once in pompe and pride,  
beyonde my neyghbours all,

But vvhere apace came in the tide,  
novv floud beginnes to fall:

And at lovve vvater marke I stand,  
that earst haue floated stil,

My hauen mouth is chokt vvith sande,  
my loades men lacke the skil,

To passe the strayghtes, and safely bring,  
my barcke to quiet port.

Novv vvaste and empty lye the towvnes  
vvherein vvvas greatre sort.

And vvhere my Merchaunts trafficke kept,  
novv men of vvarre do flocke,

And vvhere the gates vvide open stooode,  
vvith barres and double locke

Now

*of Flaunders.*

Now are they shutte and rammed fast,  
and bulwarkes still vve make,  
And ore the vualles the Cannon rores,  
vwhereat our houses shake.  
Our hartes in breast do tremble too,  
vwhen vve beholde this change,  
O ruinous lande, oh soyle forlorne,  
oh dolefull destnie strange,  
That throwes a vvelthie countrey downe,  
and maketh straungers raigne  
On harmelesse folke, and silly foules,  
and simple people plaine.  
My fall (alas) I see at hande,  
and vwhere vvas most my ioy,  
The towne vwhere al my triumph vvas,  
shall be a seconde Troy.  
Oh Antwerp, vvepe thy fatall chaunge,  
thy filth hath vvrought thy foyle,  
Thou vvasst the pirate of the vworld,  
that didst all nations spoyle.  
And novv I feare for thy foule factes,  
the vworld shall ring on thee,  
For by my scourge and common plague;  
thy drearie date I see.  
Yea manie stately tovvnes beside,  
vvell vvalde and peopled both,

B.ij.

Through



## *The Lamentation*

Through vvrath of God, and rage of vvarre,  
to vvracke and mischiefe goth.  
I vvas pult vp vwith Princely povvre;  
and vworthie vvarious stoute,  
Who stooode like friends, vwith push of pike,  
to keepe proude enmies out.  
And vvhiles in deede vve drevve one yoake,  
great things poore Flaunders did,  
Whose former fame, and bright renovvme,  
in darkenesse novv lyes hid.  
Bycause my pillers shrinke in hoales,  
my nobles sevred are,  
And for to please a forraine foe,  
casts off their countrey care.  
We neuer fearde our fall, til novv,  
the Faggots bande is broke,  
And stickes flee out, yea all the house  
is full of flame and smoke.  
And in this heate and smother foule,  
the enemy spies his time,  
And finely layes to catch the birdes,  
the futtle snares and lime.  
O vvilfull vvasste and blindenesse great,  
that vvill not see the sore,  
Where bile begins to beale and burst,  
and breeds a canckred core.

## *of Flaunders.*

O running vvittes, that roues and shootes ,  
at markes past reasons reach,  
O frovvard flocke, and schollers rude,  
that no scholeman may teach.  
O vvretched members of my state,  
that teares in funder all,  
And seekes to giue a cunning trippe,  
to foote that vvould not fall.  
O carreine Crovves, that followv fleshe,  
and flee the fruite of spreete,  
O tipsie brains, and senselesse heads,  
that knowves not sovvre from syveete.  
My glorie had not so decline,  
had you your duetie done,  
You haue no stay, your steppes do flyde,  
your feete a gadding runne.  
Ful many yeares, as cause you had,  
to Englands aide you stooode,  
And alvvaies leaned to that lande,  
that most might do you good:  
And novv to strangers, frame your selues.  
your flytting may proue vvell,  
But vvith the colde conceite of this,  
in care doth Flaunders dvvell.  
My care is lesse, though shame be much,  
for your offence and foyle,

B.ij.

I beare

## *The Lamentation*

I beare the blame, and yours the fault,  
and I the only foyle,  
That some shootes at, and playes vpon,  
vwhat play, oh Lord, he knowes.  
Some come as they vvere lookers on,  
but some haue longer vvoes,  
That reacheth to the highest cloudes;  
your quaffing sees not that,  
You swallow vp a Cammel great,  
and snatche a little gnatte.  
I liste no further speake of faults,  
nor teache you to agree,  
But how so ere the matter goes,  
I warne you looke to mee.  
O staggering state that reeleth still,  
yet looke vnto thy strength,  
Or else my povvre and name shall flyde,  
and thou shalt fall at length,  
And make a crack, as though in deede,  
ten thousand trees fell dovne,  
O members mine, that me forgets,  
yet loke to Antverpe tovvne,  
That long hath lasted to my fame,  
and stooode vwith greatest peeres,  
With svvorde and shotte in open plaine,  
this many hundreth yeeres.

But



*of Flaunders.*

But all in vaine that tale is tolde.  
What shoulde I further speake,  
When might decayes, and force of man,  
by finesse vvaxeth vveake.  
My members must giue place to time,  
and I therewith decay,  
As frost and Snowv , and cakes of Ise,  
do melt on Sommers daye.  
The heat of my good hap is gon,  
the prime of pompe is past,  
And as the vvarmth forsakes the vvorld,  
the colde comes on as fast.  
The Spring but threatens fal of leafe,  
all bravrie beggrie brings,  
He vvopes in vvant, that first in vveth,  
and toppe of triumph sings.  
Yet vvellavvay, and stil vvo vvorrh,  
the causers of my crie,  
Who rockes my people fast asleepe,  
vvith many a farced lye.  
And fables forced for the nonce,  
oh pause I go too farre,  
My slouth, or sinne, or foule carovvse,  
is cause of all this vvarre:  
That bybbing vp deep bowvles of vvine,  
vvent drouisie home to bedde.

And

## *The Lamentation &c.*

And saw not vvhat shrevvde matters lukt,  
in sober suttel hed.

Well, since my faulte, as people say,  
is partly cause of this,  
I must require the vvondring vvorld,  
to take it as it is :

And by the same, a mirror make,  
that they in one agree,  
And seeke throw loue and good accorde,  
to shunne the plagues of me,  
Who novv laments, and cryes alas,  
too late as vvisedome shoes,  
And am compeld in hard extreames,  
to yeelde to mortall foes.

*FINIS.*

# Of the Warres and troubles in *Flaunders*, during the raigne of the Emperoure Charles the fifth, and since those dayes a rehearfall of sundrie things, till the late death of Don Iohn de Austria.



**I**n the raigne of y<sup>e</sup> mightie Emperour Charles y<sup>e</sup> fifth, whose victories & conquests are registred in Chronicle, *Flaunders* did flourish with *Souldiours*, abounded in wealth, prospered in war, and wanted neyther wise men to make peace at their advantage, nor good Gouernours, to maynteyne their publike state & common comoditie: and yet their Countrey shode neuer free fro troubles, nor their Townes, Fortes, and fortifications coulde any long whyle in quietnesse remayne, the occasions whereof may procede, eyther of the ambition of this greedy worlde, or the plagues prepared of God and poured on the people, whose wealth and pride was so great, that they were wart so wanton with abundaunce of treasure, that somtymes they fell to open rebellion, treason, and insolencie, and sometime to such disorder of life, as was not to be suffered. For the which cause, the Emperour made in *Gant* a great Castel, and kept such a garrison in the same, as might feare the offenders, and animate good subiectes in well doing. So the whole Countrey of *Flaunders*, *Brabant*, *Seland*, *Holland*, *Artoys*, *Henalt*, *Namure* (and other members thereof

C.



thereof whatsoeuer) were gouerned by a Regente, called the Queene of *Hungary*, sister to the Emperoure, in whyche season fell out many matters, but especially suche warres as I meane to make mention of, and ought not to be forgotten in this shorte rehearsall of the affayres of *Flanders*.

Nowe to touche briefelie the broyles and businesse of those dayes, it is to be presupposed, that *France* hadde a clayme to some partes of the Countrey of *Flanders*, for whyche clayme or greedie desire of dominion, a most cruell and pitifull warre burst out betwene the Emperoure, and the French King. And continuing long in diuers employtes and exercises of armes, the King of *Nauarre* with an armie entred the lowe Countrey (neere vnto *Saint Homers*) burning and spoyling what he thought conuenient, or had by sworde conquered.

Monsieur Grand Maeter, called Count Dernes, dyd leaue another power of Burgonyons, Flemmings, and Englishmen, and so marched, to withstande the furie of the French, and encamped himselfe neere vnto the King of *Nauarre*, called Duke de Vandoem, where was oftentimes hote skirmishes, and good leaping of dikes, the seruice was so well plyed on both the parties. At whyche seruice, were sundrie English bands, and many Gentlemen of *Englande*, as Sir Anthonie Storley, Captayne Matson, Francis Horsey, Sir William Drurie, Captayne Mitchell, Captayne Plonket, Captayne Hinde, my selfe, and a great number of others, whose names I haue forgotten.

This businesse beeyng done, and the Frenchmen retyred, Monseigneur Grand Maeter besierged Hedding, and battered the Castell, where Duke Orace was slayne, and manye other noble men of *France*, and at length, the Castell and Towne was assaulted, and Captayne Matsons Auntiente was the fyrste that entred the Towne (William Hinde

Hinde bearing it) and gane the syſte ſigne of victorie : after whych Conqueſt, with the pauſe of thre dayes aduiſement, the Caſtell of Hedding was yielded to Monſieur Dernes, and the French ſouldyours marched away with bagge and baggage, to the greate glozie of the Burgonyons, and diſcontentment of the French.

The Emperoure not long after, wyth a puiſſante power, and a mightie armie, beſieged *Meatz* in *Lorraine*, in whych Towne was a greate number of the floure of *France* placed, as Duke D'Aumail, Duke De Namures, and the Vidaem de Chartoys, a luſtie and noble Gentleman, wyth whych Vidaem was the Lorde Charles Howarde of *Effingham* that nowe is. And the French ſo worthilie behaved themſelues in that Towne, (by ſallies, and iſſuing out vppon the Emperoures Campe) that the Emperoure was fayne to rayſe hys ſerge, wyth the loſſe of twentye thouſande menne by ſwoorde and Peſtilence, and ſo departed, and miſſed the thyng he looked for.

From *Artoys* the meane while, Monſieur Grande Maſter, with a greate power, wente along the water of *ſome*, and ſpoyled two Townes of good ſtrength, the one called *Noyon*, and the other *Roye*, wyth a number of other Villages. And in the ſame iourney, beſore *Pyræn*, was Sir William Drurie ſhotte through the brydle hande by a Frenchmā, & offered to breake a Lance vpo him, who threwe downe his ſtaffe when he ſhoulde haue putte it in the reſt, and ſo diſcharged hys Dagge at Sir William Drurie, whych was accompted the parte of a Cowarde.

At the ſame inſtant, or very ſone after, the Frenchmen beſieged Hedding agayne, where Monſieur Byron was, as Generall. His father Mon. Grand Maſter came to raiſe &



saige with a sufficiente power, but came too late, for the French hadde wonne it the same nyght that we laye in Campe, within two leagues of *Hedding*, and Monsieur Byron commyng away wyth bagge and baggage, sente vs worde of hys misfortune, whycher newes so toke away the courages of oure people (I meane Burgonyons, and suche as were in oure Campe) that we marched without sounde of Drumme or Trumpet that nyght, to *Saint Poule*, a neutre Towne on the frontiers, and the season was then so terrible cold, that all the way we had but Snowe and flæte in oure faces, with suche a winde and blustering storme, as many dyed by the way, and many fell sicke of their suddayne and soze trauell.

Where I must a little tell you of the strange manner of both oure Camps at all times and extremities, whycher in deede was of the worlde to be wondered at: for the French would sometimes make hast to followe vs, but when they came nere, then would they retyre, wyth as greate expedition, as they made hast befoze: and in lyke sorte, we folloved them, vppon the lyke aduantage. But when our Campe came in the smell of theyr Powder, away wee truded as fast (God knowes,) without any greate occasion. And in this trade and manner the whole forces of both the sydes continued a marvellous tyme, and yet assuredly on both partes were manye stoute and valiant Captaynes, and menne of suche fame, as to these dayes there are but a fewe lefte alque of theyr worthynesse.

About this time *Rentie* was besieged, where manye noble things were done, so valiantly, and with suche courage and conduct, as merits great praise: but in fine, the French were faine to withdrau themselves, and the Burgonians succoured the Foxt with no little losse or hazarde.

The



The greate Citie and Towne of Arras had like to haue bin betrayed, but the treason was espied, and the practise prevented, to some losse of the French side.

Monfieur Dernes dyed, and in his place came Monfieur Benningcourt, who, being Graund Maister, prepared to besiege *Dorlean*, and laye neare it with a huge power, the French by a great pollicie, laide an ambushe of horsemen and footmen in a place conuenient, and the Burgonions raising no doubt, went about some enterprize, and fell in the lapse of the French, where was a maruellous great fighte and sharpe encounter, horsemen to horsemen, at the leaste five thousand on a side, and the Burgonians at the first won a gyddon or two from the French, and toke manye prisoners. But in the end, the boile began to be so hote, that the Prince of *Pianoy*s was smozed to deathe in hys armour, and the Duke of *Asco*t was take prisoner, and the Burgonions were forced to make the best shift for theselues that they coude, at whiche seruice and other exploits befoze, was Sir William Drurie, and mooste of the Gentlemen and souldiours of *Englande* befoze named.

*Hedding* was againe besieged by the Burgonions, and wonne from the French, and rased to the verpe grounde, to the vtter disgrace of the French, and great glorie of the other side.

The Emperoure his owne person, and his sister the Regent, came with a wonderfull great armie to *Cambria*, and abode the French Kings coming, for a battell. The French King came, and presented the battel, with such a multitude of braue souldyers, horsemen and footmen, as seldome I euer sawe befoze, and in dede they marched full in the face and viewe of the Emperours campe, which was so entrenched, that the French coude not haue any aduantage, and so, after the great ordinance had gone off a long season, the French in a mooste noble and braue order retired.

A strong and goodly Towne called *Turwain*, was besieged

ged by the Burgonions, battered and assaulted, at which assaulte we lost many men. But the Spaniardes were euen with the towne after: For at a parlee, the Spaniardes suddenly entred the towne, and so a greate murther of all sortes of people was made, in somuche, that I sawe sundry wounded and sicke Gentlemen and Gentlewomen, leape downe from the toppe of the walles, but that prevailed not, for the murther continued, and the towne was cleane spoyled, throwne down, and rased in moste cruell despite.

There was many other seruices in *Flanders*, the whiche I saw not at that season, wherfore I do commit the reporte thereof to those that are better experimented with the causes, and haue a minde to set them out at large. For my onely meaning was, but briefly to make a rehearsall of suche things as I knewe to be true, and may not weare a willing Reader.

Nowe after a number of byzyles and warlike affaires were ended, the Emperour and the Quene of *Hungarie* took shyping, and went into *spaine*, and ended their lines in a Monastrie, and in *Flanders* was placed, King Phillip, in whose time was many great actes done, and sundry battels worthily gotten.

The greatest of those victories was at Saint *Quintines*, whiche towne King Philip besieged. To the rescue of the same towne, the French King sent the chiefest of al his nobilitie with a puissant power, but the King of *spaine* happened was to encounter them, and ouerthrowe them: and making a greate slaughter, took the highe Conestable of *France*, and many other honorable and mightie personages prisoners. The town of Saint *Quintines* notwithstanding, stood to the mercye of the sword, and would not yeelde in any respect. Whereupon a Generall assaulte was roundly  
giuen



giuen, in going to the whiche assaulte, the Lorde Henry Dudley was slaine, a lustie and towarde Gentleman, but in fine, with much adoe, and very great seruice and slaughter, Saint *Quintines* was won and spoiled, and an English Gentleman (nowe sir Nicholas Malby) of good valor and courage, wanne Saint *Quintines* heade, whiche was held as a greate and holy Relique among the Frenchmen.

At this siege was the Earle of *Penbrooke* sent from Queen Mary, as Generall ouer five thousande Englishmen, and in that company, the Lorde Grey of *Wilton*, the Earle of *Leycester*, called then Lorde Robert Dudley, and the Lord Henry his brother, Lorde Bray, Lorde Delawaer, Sir William Courtney, Sir Iohn Pollard, and a greate number of nobilitie, and worthy Gentlemen, which being mustred and putte in order of battell on Saint Peters greene by *Callice*, made as gallant a shewe as was seene in those partes a long season before.

King Phillippe being happie in warres, and hauing alwayes, on the most parte, victorie (and aduantage ouer the French) made what stirre or businesse hee pleased, during the time of his abode in *Flaunders*, and departing to *spaine*, lefte the Dutchesse of *Parma* as Regent. But about that season, or anone after, the French King sente Monsieur de Termes, who was Generall of *Callice* (when *England* had losse it) with tenne thousand Souldiours, to destroy a grea te peece of the lowe countrie, and they prospered a while, and burnt *Donkerke*, and *Berges*, and sundrie other Townes and Villages. But the Counte De *Egmond*, with a noble bande of Burgonions, gaue a charge vpon Monsieur de Termes before *Granelin*, and ouerthrew his whole armie, leauing but a fewe horsemenne to runne awaye and make reporte of the conflicte. Dure shippes on the Sea (as some saye) did further muche this victorie.

Thus



Thus all this while did *Flanders* moste manfullpe and stoutlye strue with the frenchmen, and gotte commonlye twice so muche as they losse, either by martiall feates in field, or pollicie at home in peace. And surely *Flandres* had the name to haue as greate souleriozs, and as wise Counselloures, as any one parte of *Chyistendome*. Lette their actes in our daies be a testimonie to trie their valor and worthinesse, and so; my parte I goe no further in their fame and glorie, than al their neighbourres can beare witnesse of, and hath bin seene in the compasse of thirtie yeares, of whiche time I haue had some triall among them of their wars and experiences in martiall causes. But what can mans force or pollicie doe, when God withdraues his goodnesse from the people? Did not *Rome* flourish many yeares, and conquered in a maner the greater parte of the world? Did not *Carthage*, *Thebes*, *Athens*, *Florence*, *Genowa*, *Venice*, *Naples*, and a number of other Kingdomes and Signiorities, abounde in wealth and glorie: and nowe at these daies are but a few of them left able to compare with this little Island. And to speake of *Flanders*, though I knew the day when it might haue compared with the greatestt State that I haue named, the greater is the fall thereof at this presente, and the moze it is to be lamented, not onely bicause it was our ancient neighbour and friende, but so; that it was a famous and riche countrey, whiche I leaue to Gods ordinance and appointment, purposing to follow the matter I haue taken in hand.

The Dutchesse of *Parma* remaining Regent, had much adoe to quiet things in hir time, so; the State beganne to be deuided, and a quarrel betwene the Cardinall Granduicell, and Monsieur Degmond (who gaue the Cardinall a blow) encreased such dissention, as coulde not be a long while be pacified: and then the Prince of *Orange*, Counte de *Horne*, Counte de *Heistraed*, and others of the greatestt calling, aduanced Religion, and brought suche matters in question,

as byedde great businesse and bloudshed.

The first of this ruffling and sturre began at *Antwerpe*, where they threw down Images, and made a greate uproare among the common people, so that they fell to sides and factions, and thereby a grudge of ranke took roote in their heartes, in suche sorte, that the one side sought the others ouerthrow and utter subuersion.

At thys tyme, a greate Citie called *Valentian*, taking holde and sauoure of Religion, revolted from the Regent, whiche towne was besieged a long season by the Regents power, and by practise and policie surprisid, taken, and cruelly handled.

But in the mean season, there was one called Monsieur Tolouse, that assembled a company of souldiours, to the number of two thousand, and fortified a place neare *Antwerpe*, called *Austeruel*, in minde to exercise Religion there, and to draw as many vnto them, as were fauozers of that enterpryse.

The Regent hearing thereof, with all expedition sente Monsieur Beauoys, with a sufficient band, both of horsemen & footemen, which set vpon Monsieur Tolouse his companye (when they were not well provided to withstande such a chardge) and ouerthrowe the whole assembly, putting to the sworde as many as they coulde lay hand vpon, with as great terroze and crueltie, as coulde anye waye be imagined.

The common people of *Antwerpe* standyng on their walles, and beholding this murther and massacre, began to murmure at the matter, and so burst out in open words of malice, and swore to reuenge the bloudshed they behelde of their brethren and countrimen. Wherevpon a common crie was suddenly raised throughout the *Strætes*, of *Viue le geux*; & all the people arming themselves in euerye parte of the Citie, came running to the *Mear Broeg*, a wide and large stræte, adioyning to the *Borse*, & when they

D.

had



hadde assembled together to the number of tenne thousand shotte, and armed menne, they determined to march out of the towne, and meete Monsieur Beauoys, as he returned from *Auslreniel*. But in the market place was assembled twelve Auntyents of the Regents side, who had the keyes of the gates, and so kepte the people from their purpose a little season.

But the multitude was so greate, and the people swarmed so thicke in euery place, that the Regentes power in the Market place were faine to drawe the Cannons from the walles, and gather theyr friendes together from all partes of the Citie, and hauing a greate power, all in one place, they charged all theyr Cannons and greate peces with haile shotte, and bydde fortifye themselves in the Market place verie stronglye.

The nighte before, one Capitayne Bright, and Capitaine Marya an Italian, hadde broken all the bridges and passages, that the people of the Citie shoulde haue gone ouer, or haue hadde anye passage at, which was done vppon some suspicion they had conceived of a revolt.

The people being with this and other occasions made angrie, and brought in a rage, beganne furiouslye to goe aboute the walles, and kepte together by thousandes and multitudes, the number whereof coulde not easlye be known: but they were iudged in all to be five and twenty thousande able men, and yet among them hadde they no speciall Capitaine, nor any that woulde take vppon him to shew what was necessarie to be done, in this their extreme hazard and danger.

The Prince of Orange, the Count de Horne, the Count de Holsrad Monsieur Decaerdes, & al the nobilitie being  
afraide



afraide to offende the King with an open reuolte, did perswade the Regents power, to make peace with the people, and aboute that perswasion they spent three long houres. But the Regents power being experimented Souldiours, would lose no occasion to conquere their enemies. And on that pointe they stode so stiffely, that they determined presently to geue the commoners a battell, and trie oute the matter by sword, and not by sweete persuasions. And to performe the same, they sette all in order, and were readye to marche into the Citty, and meete with the people, as by fortune they mighte any waye encounter them.

The Prince, and the Nobilitie muche grieved with this bloudye resolution, repaired towardes the people, and tolde them all the matter, and willed them to goe to their owne houses, and he would see, that all thinges should be wel ended.

The people liked no whit that counsell, and gaue the Prince euil wordes, and a greate number of them burst into my lodging. And bycause the Prince hadde made of me before, (and that they knew I hadde serued in the Emperours dayes,) they called me forth, and saide I shoulde be theyr leader, whiche thing I refused as far as I durst, alleadging, I was ignoraunt of suche affayres: whereupon, they bent theyr pikes on me in a greate furie. I beholding the extremitie I was in, gaue them my faith, and so came into the streete among the reste of their companie, where I was so receiued, as fewe would haue beleued the manner thereof, but suche as had scene it. Witnesse Sir Thomas Gressham.

Then knowing the daunger we were in, and finding no way so good for our expectation, as speedily to preuent the harmes the enemies mighte doe vs, I drew the whole  
D.ij. power

power into a strong peece of grounde, called *Nova Vielle*, digged and defended of it selfe, and tooke out of the companye an eight thousande souldiours well appointed, and marched to one of the Gates. And beating downe a little posterne with barres of yron, we sallied out into the fieldes, to encounter Monsieur Beauoys, giving charge to a thousande shotte, to keepe the posterne, till we returned in againe, which duly did their endeuour, as well for their owne liues, as oure safetie. But wanting horsemen to discover the enemy, and hauing no fitte grounde to auoide the charge of the enemies horsemen, whiche came lustily on a great gallop to holde vs in play till their footemen hadde overtaken them, we softly and orderly retrayed, leauing in the face of the enemy a sufficient company of shotte, that galled their horses, & held the at a stay, til we had recovered the towne againe, whiche done, we shutte by the posterne, and lefte men to garde it, and so came to our power, that hadde in this season furnished themselves wyth weapon, powder, shotte, armour, and all things necessarie for a battle.

At our coming in, the prince of *Orange* came to me, & gaue me thanks, for sauing the liues of so many men that had bin abroad, whiche Monsieur Beauoys was like ynoughe to ouerthrowe, bycause he had a great band of horsemen in his campe.

The Regentes power in the market place hearing, that oure men woulde fight, and hadde prepared thinges for that purpose, and seying oure companye encrease continuallye, stode in a doubt and durste not issue out of the market place, whiche was well fortified and guarded rounde aboute with greate chaines and greate peeces rammed full of haile shotte, and other mischiese meete for a murther.

Now

Now I asked of my companie, if they would fight, and desired such as would be in their houses to depart, whereat they sang vp a thousande Cappes, and cryed, arme, arme, Battallia, Battallia, viue le geuxe. I hearing this 'crie, and noting their courage, as well as I could, set them in order, and tooke with all possible speede the high way towards the Market place, willing all those that would saue their houses from spoyling, to ayde vs with Munition, and suche things as we wanted. And as sone as we came to *Copper street*, we sent foure thousand shotte to enter (on a warning giuen) on the backes of our enemies, which they were ready to do when we ioyned in battell.

The day was faire, and the people left in their houses, reioyced so at our comming by them, and made such a shoute and crye, that we had good hope of victorie: and to attaine the same, we marched a great pace, crying all the way *Viue le geuxe*, in so muche, that the very noyse of this crye came to the hearing of the enimie, and neyther Drumme nor Trumpet could be heard of any side, the crye that we made was so greate, (the like of whiche noyse since I was bozne I neuer hearde.) And as we approached almost to the mouth of the Carnon, and view of the enimie, the Prince of *Orange*, and all the Nobilitie (to saue blood, and the liues of thousands) came betwene both the armies, and desired vs to retire, declaring, the enimie was stronger (by meane of their good Souldiours and artillerie) than we: and as he sayde, it was impossible for vs to enter vpon them. At which words, our people fell in so greate a rage, that they cryed, kill the Prince, and surely, had not some saued him (I name them not) he had bin slayne. But both the Prince, and a number of the noble men, being frighted with the furious follie of the people, retired so hastilie forwarde, that their Horses fell downe: and the Prince beyng conuarde safelie into another *Stræte*, we tooke the aduantage of time. And making a shew, as though we had ouerthrowne



these noble men; we marched immediately vpon the enimie, crying still *Vive le geux*, and they beholding oure boldnesse, and perceiuing the shotte that should haue entred on the backe side of them, withoute giuing fire to anye peece, cryed in lyke sorte *Vive le geux*, and yelded themselves, withoute any stroke stricken, vnto vs, in most humblest sorte and manner, simply and playnely. A thyng to be wondered at, and coulde not be broughte to passe but onely by Gods ordinance.

Nowe hauing this peaccable victorie, we soughte all possible meanes to reste in suretie, and come by that we desired, whiche was (as the people confessed) the libertie of the Gospell. And for oure most aduantage, we tooke wpyth vs diuers of the enimies chieftaynes, and foure and twentie Cannons and greate peece, whiche they hadde all ready charged, and marching from the enimie, we came to the *Mear Broeg*, and there encamped, chayning and choking the corners of euerie stræte with Cartes, bigge timber, Barreils, and other necessaries, to holde out the enimie, and to debate the matter at the push of the Wyke, if neede required. And finishing these fortifications, we thrust euerie windowe full of shotte that might serue for the flanking of the strætes, (and commande the rest of y<sup>e</sup> houses in the compasse of our shotte) that nothing might be a lette or hinderance to our desired hope.

By this time, the Prince had the keyes of the Towne, and no man coulde eyther enter, or go out, without the licence of the people encamped in the *Mear Broeg*, for we kept the watch and ward, and had the only rule of all *Antwerp*, without any empeachment or contradiction.

And aboute midnichte after this victorie, diuers of the Souldiours in greate companies came vnto me, and desired to go and spoyle the Catholikes houses. I tolde them, that it was more meete to watche and be in readinesse for the enimie, for the Prince hadde tolde me, how they prepared

pared to assaulte oure Campe the same presente nyghte, whyche policie kepte oure people in quiet : and further, I knewe, if we hadde spoyled one house, we shoulde haue ransackt the whole Towne, and when I hadde gotten any treasure, I beeyng a straunger, shoulde haue had my throte cutte for my goddes. But in very earnest, I made the Prince priuie to all those thyngs I dyd, or intended to doe, whyche kepte the best of the company in feare to offende, and made the worst reforme themselves, before they committed any violence acte, or fell into open disorder and follie.

The seconde daye, the enemies beganne newe practises, and the Margraue and Burgo maisters went busilie about some mischiefe towards us, and deuised many wayes how they mighte weaken our power, and augment their owne strength, and had secret communication with many of our camp (who were rich men of the Towne) to bring to passe the effect of their deuises.

Aboute dinner time, I being with the Prince at the Table, the people had broken into the friers, and spoyled their house, which was a beginning of a bloudie businesse, had it gone forward. The Prince hearing thereof, sent me to pacifie the hurly burly, and I came, when sixe friers were going to hanging, and the people were determined to kill all the Papistes in the Towne, especially the Priests, Monckes, and friers : but I perswaded the people to be in quiet, and preserued the liues of the friers, and thousands of their betters, both honest Gentlemē, and wealthie Burgeses. The same nighte, the rudest, and most disordred of al our company, came in a great heate, and told me, that in one Batters his house, an Englishman, was a great stocke of friers and Religious persons, and all the treasure that they could gather and bring: but by this time had a practise of the Burgo Maisters take such place, that I was fayne to keepe watch all the night, with all the armed men, & chiefe  
Hotte



shotte in our Camp, and yet cleane againste oure hope; dyuers of our people were fledde from vs to a contrarie side.

Then I was sent to the Prince from our people, to demaund what was the meaning of these matters, for he had daylie conference with the Borgo Maisters, and others, about a common quietnesse (which our rude and basest sorte of Souldiours vnderstode not.) And the Prince to my demaunde answered somewhat sharplie, and declared, that the Caluinistes had sworne to kill the Martinistes, wherby he would not suffer, and by the threating of himselfe to his owne face the firste daye, he smelled some suche smoke as woulde breed a furious flame of fire. Wherefore he willed the people to vse more temperance, and shew more fidelitie and seruice to God and his person.

This message so bered the wayne heads of numbers in our Camp, that they determined to the last droppe of their blouds to mainteyne their purpose for their liues and libertie. And the grauest and wisest sort, who were of great wealth and experience, confessed openly, that the brute raised, for the killing of the Martinistes, was a deuice of some diuelishe inuention, to set brethren at variance. But in a little while after, our company grewe so weake, that we were but fiftene thousand left, of fve and twentie, wherby fiftene thousand were become so resolute, that they purposed the next morning to giue all their enemies a battell, and sware, neither to spare one nor other. And in this heate and furie, they badde me looke to my promise, and keepe my faith, for they doubted not, but God would giue them victorie, for their quarrell was onely for the aduancement of Gods glorie and hys word.

The next day, the enemies grew very strong, what with Spanyards Easterlings, Burgonions, Almaynes, and Martinistes, the streets were all couered with their assemblies. And we hearing they were sparkled abroad, and without order,



order, suddaynely we thought to charge them: and so putting our selues in battell, began to march: the bzute whereof so amazed the enimies, that they caused the Prince to send and stay vs, and that they were glad to talke of peace, and would not any way offend vs, the Prince sent. Whereupon we stayed, and I was agayne sent from the people to the Prince, to will all our aduersaries immediately to lay downe weapon, and goe home to their houses, for otherwise there was no hope of peace. The Prince willed me to perswade them to goe home first, and promised that all the Citie should be in quiet, so soone as they were in their houses: to the which I replied, and sayd, that our people were now able and strong ynough to debate the matter in any maner of sort, and being in their houses, and the enimie in armour, the suretie of our people mighte be doubtfull. And I knew I shoulde but offend the people, to bring them newes, that they must giue place to their enimies, when they were maisters of the Towne, and the enimie scattered abroad, and not like to be in order, if we tooke the aduantage that God had put into our hands. Wherefore in hast there was no more to be saide, but cyther the enimie must defend fight, or without delay withdraw themselves home ward, and let them vse victorie that gat it.

The Prince gaue no aunswere to this, and our men halled me away, that were sente to the Prince with me. And when I came to the people, there was a new crye, Vive le geux, Battailia, Battailia, and suche a shoute and noyse was suddaynely raysed, as made y<sup>e</sup> enimie afrayde and tremble, and the whole Towne to draw to some accorde and pacification. And in greate post hast came a messenger from the enimies, that they woulde lay downe weapon, and agree, that there shoulde be a free libertie of preaching, and no person shoulde (of this our assemblie) be troubled, for any matter or cause committed. And to performe this that the enimies offered, they promised to sweare on a Bible, and

so they did, at which othe and offer our people reioysed, and clapped handes, but still they manfullie stode in order of battell. The enimies duly obserued the appoyntment made, and went euery man to his lodging, accordingly as the order was taken, and when we saue and found all things in quiet, we marched along the streets with Anciente displayed, and as euery man came by his owne house, he cried. But before we wer all placed in our lodgings, it grew very late. Thus ended this greate reuolte, without bloodshed or hurte to any one person liuing. And for our paynes, and true performance in things that we promised, we reaped trouble and persecution: and in a little season after, both Prince and people were driuen through a thousande hazards, to saue life and libertie. The Prince was fayne to depart to a Towne of his owne called *Breda*, and hauing hast away (or for some great cause) left his sonne and heire called Monsieur Debuier in *Louaine* at Schole: and dyuers Gentlemen shifted away as they might: among the rest I scrambled hardly into *Englande*, being layde for, and yet so disguised, that I escaped the handes of my enimies, who hadde a commaundement from the Regente, to put me to death with Partiall law (a badde recompence for so great good and diligence bestowed on hir people, and a naughtie reward for the frute of a good meaning mind.)

*Flaunders*, and all the lowe Countreys belonging to the King of *spayne*, after this time, fell in a maruellous mislike of King Philips friendes, and so to bridle that Countrey, and keepe the people in awe and feare, were appoynted streight lawes, and seuerer Governours. And among the rest of cruelties, the inquisition was thought a necessarie curb or plague, to persecute y<sup>e</sup> heads that were thrust out to farre. And with this inquisition was sente from King Philip the Duke of Alua, a graue Prince, but a sterne and stoute Souldyore, at whose comming, the Dutches of *Parma* was to departe, and to yelde the gouernes



urnemente to the aforesayde Duke of Alua. And to fetch him into the Countrey, went the Count Degmond, and all the Nobilitie of *Flanders*, whersof some were eyther in Religion, or other causes, to King Philip, offenders before. But neyther their offering of service, nor diligent attendance, coulde plucke him from his purpose, that came for a pretended persecution and scourge, prepared for people that God appointed to be plagued. And the Duke of Alua minding the matter he came for, and forgetting no aduantage that mighte be taken in time, beganne roughly, and with some rigor, to shew the power and commission he had, sparing neyther purse, cunning, nor practise, to accomplish his desire, and bying to full effect by sword and pollicie the substance of a plotte and ground, settled in his iudgemente. And going on a determined course (neyther renocable, nor to be controlled) like a Hercules, that woulde sette Willers where neuer none had bin, proceeded so farre in his owne opinion and resolute mind, that he feared the offenders so much, that gladd was the man (of what degree soeuer he was) that by submission myghte purchase his fauour. And he synndng hymselfe thus feared and soughte vnto, vsed his forces and extremities, to subdue by violence that whiche some Gouvernours by sweete persuations woulde haue reformed: wherevpon, he layde handes on the Count Degmonde, Count De Horne, and many others, that he thoughte woulde bee a lette to that he went about, and hadde at his commaundement for the execution of these causes, a greate number of Spanyardes and Straungers, that gaped for nothing else, but the liues and goodes of those, that eyther rigour of law, or seuerie iustice hadde condemned: so withoute delays, or deferring of punishments, vpon an open skaffolde, to the greate terror of y beholders, Count Degmonde, and Count De Horne were beheaded, after theyr araynemente & condemnation made: and many others were not only dayly troubled, but



likewise were put to death, and a generall persecution was ministred and felt throught the whole Countrey of *Flanders*.

The *Spaniards*, as maysters and rulers of all Fortes, Townes, and strong holdes, prospered in wealth, brauerie, and benefite, and became so haute and stoute, that neyther *Burgonion* nor *Flemming* durst struggle with them, in a me sort of manner: by whiche meanes, the people murmured, and thought all amisse, but knew not how to amend a nye p[er]ce thereof. Wherefore they put their neckes willinglie in the yoke, and drew that way that the *Spaniards* would wrest them, offering no resistance to any insolence or disordered behauioure that the *Spaniarde* might vse towards the. And in that kinde of seruitude the poore Countrey continued a long season.

Upon the mislike of some exactions, and other streyght handlings, there grewe a grudge and a common hatred among the people agaynst the *Spaniards*, but they were so hardily held & looked vnto, y both their power sayled to answer their mindes, and their courage was daunted, and could do nothing in reuouering their former liberties and priuiledges belonging to their state. Then diuers fledde from their patrimonies and liuing, and came to the Count *Lodwike*, who hadde gathered a good power, and lay in *Freeceland* to annoy the *Spaniards*, and winne a Towne called *Groening*. And this valiant Earle had many followers and fauourers, and many times warne of the *Spaniards*, and put the to the soyle. But in conclusion, his people being not all sound (nor so desirous to fight as they were willing to haue warres) in a maner at a great extremitie and pushe of seruire, forsooke their noble Captaine, & cowardly behaued themselves, when valiance should most haue bin scene, and force of manhode & sword might by fortune haue gottē great victorie. In which oversight & feeble sprēte of y *Almaynes*, the Counte *Lodwike* was put to flight, all his folow[er]s epyther ouerthrowne or disperfed, and he himselte forced

forced to make shift in the best manner he coulde (having losse at this encounter seauen thousande men, and all his campe spoyled, and no one thing left at his power and commaundement, that befoze his enimies had no power of. *Pa*ster Crewes, an auntient Souldioure, was at this once thow with the Counte Lodwicke.

The Spaniardes, as occasion fell out, on this victorie (besides the other greate hopes they had) waxed somewhat more stoute than they were wont to be, and having the byble caste on their neckes, (and holding the bitte in their teeth) ranne what course they thought conuenient, not fearing the myze that a headstrong horse mighte happen in, nor suspecting any danger that ouermuch libertie myghte bring them to, fell after in a mischeuous Labyrinth, and could not get out of the same, since that present time, to this day, as hereafter in playne discourse shall appere.

Nowe the Countrey of *Flaunders*, perceyuing that the Spaniardes soughte not to preserve the people thereof, nor vse anye meane to encrease credite, and continue in good liking, and finding (as they thought) those that should haue proued guides and shepheards, became Wolves and spoilers of their common wealth, the willing obediēce of thousands grew to a common contempt and wilfull stubbornesse, and fewe was the number were leste willingly to obey the Duke of *Aluaes* direction, and now denised orders that the straungers had offered them.

So some ran to *Prince of Orange*, some fled to *England*, (and that in greate numbers) some slypped into *France*, and some were readye to tourne any way, and goe where fortune assigned them. And great was the griefe that some did feelee, that tarryed at home, who gladly kept silence, and watched a season to vtter their malice, or auoyde their present mischiese.

*Flaunders* and all the lowe coutrie being in this perplexitie, began to decline and were feeble, both of force and cou-



Rage: the souldiours little set by: their marchaunts despised: and their noble men so daunted (by meanes of the pride of the Spaniards, and plague of the Inquisition) that they thought themselves rather in a slavish bondage, than handled like subiectes: and would haue faine shaken off the yoke of this seruitude, but their power was so small, and their miserie so greate, that little or nothing at all coulde they doe, and were forced to beare and suffer with patience, a burthen most heauie, and a load that overcharged both bodye and conscience.

The Prince of *Orange* hauing hope, that sundrie of the towns and streets of the Countrey, in this extremitie would haue ioyned with him (for the recovering of their libertie and priuiledges) drew himselfe among his friends in *Germany*, and practised for money and men to be ready with an army to encounter the Duke of *Alua*, and either by battaile to ende the miseries of *Flanders*, or by strong hande to drive oute the perturbbers of their publike state and quietnesse.

And so resolved to trie, what good fortune, and fast friends would doe in those affaires. He remained at his house (ten Dutche leagues beyonde *Collen*) called *Dillenburgh*, a goodly seate, and a faire strong Castell, to which place repaired many noble personages of *Germany* and Capitaines of greate conduct and charge, to deuise and talke of matter conuenient for the purpose rehearsed. In whiche communication was concluded, that as sone as an army mighte be leued, they would meete and assemble at an Abbey neare vnto *Ander-nake*, which Monasterie was beyond the river of *Rhein*, and stode wel for the suretie of the people that there should be mustred.

It came well to passe after a long prouision, and that a braue regiment of Frenchmen were readye (that Monsieur *Maulberg* brought out of *France*) that the Prince & his people met & assembled at this Abbey, in such warlike sorte and order, as gaue a great hope of some high attempt and enter-  
prise



prise. For in verie troth, the Counte de Hostract, a noble worthye manne, the Counte Lodwike a moste valiaunte souldiour, were come to the Prince, and brought with them a great bande of Burgonions of great and good houses, and such as hadde bin well experimeted in wars. And a maruellous companie of Swarfe Rutters, high Almaines, and Sweeffers were come from *Germany*, and at one instant and time they met all together, and muster was taken of aleaunc thousand horsemen, and two and twenty thousande footmen, whiche made so noble a shewe when they were assembled, as (me thoughte) was worthy the noting, and mighte encourage anie souldiour to march among, and keepe companie withall.

The Prince hadde prepared so great a treasure, that immediately after the army was mustred, there was a generall pay for two moneths, and out of hande order was taken for to passe ouer the great riuer of *Rhein*, not far from *Andernack*, the towne being gladde to stand as our friendes, and aide vs with all that they might. And so marching forwarde as direct a way towards *Flaunders*, as was thought necessarie, we encamped between *Boen* and *Collen*, where the Flemings and highe Almaines hadde of the Frenchmen in our Campe receiued some words of reproche, touching the ouerthrow that the Counte Lodwike hadde at *Greening* in *Freeflande*: on which words, the Almaines being ful of wine, made a mutinie, and put themselves in battel, and shotte off their small peeces, and began a foule businesse. To appease the same people, all the whole army were in armes, and the Swarfe Rutters were mounted, and were come into the fielde, the French and Burgonions toke one side, and the Almaines and Rutters another, and so there was a greate murther: but it dured not long, for the Prince of *Orange* & his brother Count Lodwike, by muche entreatie stayed the strife.

The Duke of Aluaes Campe hearde of this mutinie, and hadde not a greate riuer bin betwene oure Campe and

his power, we had smarted for; the folly the Almaines committed. But as by wisdom and hap of good heads, fel out better things than was looked for, and all matters were quieted, and the beginners of this uproare and madnesse, were by martiall lawe punished.

After this, we encamped before *Ayex Ocorken*, where commonly the Emperoure is crowned, a greate Cittie not very farre from *Malsricke*, the people wherof did feare to be besieged, and so with a great summe of money redeemed their towne. The Spaniardes the neare vnto our camp shewed themselves, and were repulled to their losse, and so the camp marched a little further in a most braue and gallant order.

The Prince of *Orange* vsed here a noble policie: firste hee sente to the Bishop of *Leeg*, willyng hym to let his armye passe through the Citie of *Leeg*, promising to passe quietly; the Bishop being wylie, sente the Prince worde, that he would make a brydge by the Citie, for the armye to passe ouer at, and made the Duke of *Alua* pryuy to hys practise, who should haue bin on the other side of y<sup>e</sup> water with his armye, to haue receiued our people. Whiche Stratageme the Prince suspected, but yet with fayre wordes he helde the Bishoppe in beleefe, he would passe ouer the brydge, and tooke the offer thankfullye, and a daye was appoynted, that al things should be in a readinesse. But in the mean time, the Prince by good espiall, tryed out the fine fetch and cunning of the Bishoppe, and sodainely, when no one man in our armye knew which way we shoulde marche, the Drum was sounded, and our carriages going towards *Leeg*, and al oure faces tourned that way, and marched a good while as though the Prince meant to passe ouer the brydge spoken of. And when oure people beganne moste to doubt some danger, & talked of the hazard, the Prince caused our armye to turne their faces, (& by that time night approached) and hauing good guydes, we marched swiftly without making anye



any noise. is. Dutch leagues down y<sup>e</sup> riuers side called *Mou-  
esse*, y<sup>e</sup> wether being soule, & the night very dark. And sure-  
ly a soze iorney it was, & a lōg march. But in the morning  
at the dawning of the daye, we came to a shallowe place  
of the water, where was a sword to passe ouer, and so much  
expedition was made, that eleauen thousand horse and two  
and twenty thousand footemen were passed ouer the water  
in one daies labour: but the legs of the horses kepte vp the  
water so long a season, that the river rose a yard in height,  
by which means, many horsmen & footmen wer drowned, &  
all our victuall had taken great wet, and was in a maner  
marred and spoyled quite. Notwithstanding, to oure great  
hope and comforte, our campe was now in *Flaunders*, and  
our enemies were deceyued vtterly of their expectation and  
deuise.

Nowe after this labour, we tarryed ouer long to refresh  
the army, for thre dayes were spent in ydolencesse, in which  
time, the enemies heade and body was occupied, lyttle to  
oure aduantage: yet the thirde daye we marched full vp-  
on the enmyes campe, whiche daye was so cleare, and the  
countrey so plaine to marche in, that all the order of oure  
campe mighte be throughe discerned. And who that had  
sene the glistering battels of footmen, and the awful shew  
and troupes of the horsmen (which were not a few) would  
neuer in his life dayes forgette that noble assemblie: for it  
was a wonder of the worlde, to see so many braue and lusty  
souldiers together (and as it seemed) euery man was bent to  
battell, and prepared with weapon and courage to con-  
quere a Kingdom. And vndoubtedly, the most of our camp  
looked that night for a combate and sharpe encounter, for  
the enmyes were thre and thirtie thousande footemen, and  
fue thousande and eight hundred horsmen, and gallant  
laddes both well furnished and well disposed, whiche was  
argument ynough, that they woulde loke vs in the faces:  
their leader in like sorte, a graue Prince, and an auncient &



wise souldiour, alwayes skoute and honorable. But neither we feared his force, nor doubted his policie, but marching towards him, came in viewe of his camp, and so nere to it, that his great Cannons went off at our people, and our pieces played lustily on his power againe, and a hote skirmishe beganne with egre desire on both sides to gette glorie, bloude and victorie. But the Duke hadde entrenched his Campe so strongly rounde aboute, that our boismen could not geue a charge. And peraduenture all our Swarfe Ruters were not of one minde, as the sequele her after maye shew. Thus in skirmishe all the daye was spent, in so much, that at night we were faine to encampe our selues on a toppe of a hill, full in the enemies eye, the seruice durd so long and late, we could not be better prouided.

The Duke of Alua at thre of the clocke after midnight dislodged his Campe, went from *Mastricke*, where he lay, and marched along the river side towards *Leig* very closely, and without byte or sounde of Trumpet: and at the peep of daye, our vancurrers hadde a viewe of the enemies, and we might at the length perceiue them fully, and beholde the whole order of their battels and marche. Our people being moued with that sight (albeit it was somewhat feareful to sainte courages) offered the skirmishe, and continued in the same a long time: but our meaning was, to marche into *Flaunders*, and get some *Townes* for our succoure, and money for the reliefe of the souldiours. So wee came to a Towne called *Tonger*, and toke in the same a number of Waggones loaden with victuall, that was going to the Dukes campe: and fro thence to *Sentree* an other great Town we marched, which Town was strong, and stood against vs, til they saw the battery placed, the was it yielded, and some what spoiled, where religious persons were found: and it redeemed itselfe for a summe of money, and remained in peace, whē we marched further into the country.

The Duke followed our Campe dayly, and waited for  
 upon

Upon vs, that the stragglers were some sente home, and y<sup>e</sup> whole armie tooke greate heede and care of all things they did. The wether was mosse parte soule, and the wayes sel- dome layre, and victualles euer harde to come by, by mean of a commaundement and charge giuen by the Duke to y<sup>e</sup> Boyes and Countrymen, who continually did annoy vs as they might, breaking bridges, Mills, & all other thinges that shoulde doe vs good, for the whiche, their houses and stacks of corne were burnt, and their wives and familie, when we tooke them, were very p<sup>er</sup>ill entreated.

This scarcitie of victuall, and crueltie of the Countrey-men encreased dayly, and as it was reported, diuers of good calling brake promise with the Prince, & drewe an other way, which in very deepe pinched and w<sup>o</sup>ng the heart in the b<sup>re</sup>ast of those that wisely wayed the inconstancie of the world, and suche as had not made befo<sup>re</sup> good p<sup>ro</sup>uision, were put to their plunge, and selte penurie and indigence ynough: and as victuall wared scant, so garmentes, horses, shoes, and other necessities could not be gotten fo<sup>r</sup> money, that was a miserie remediable, and a mischiese, that neither man nor beast mighte easily abide. Yet as fo<sup>r</sup> victualles, some shift with sword was made, that people perished not in extream lacke and want of sustentation.

Many daies and seasons we pingled and struggled with the Spaniards fo<sup>r</sup> breade and other cates, and often we mette with them in the Townes, Villages, & open fields, and skirmished at y<sup>e</sup> very skirts of their ca<sup>mp</sup>e, p<sup>ro</sup>curing the to fight. But y<sup>e</sup> Duke wold haue no battel, and our Ruters were so wise, y<sup>e</sup> they would make y<sup>e</sup> war long, to bying good bags, & ful purses, & Waggones home to their houses, when the Prince should ret<sup>ir</sup>e. But whatsoever might be iudged of the matter, the souldiours on both sides were sometimes loath to encounter, except vpon a great aduantage, & much p<sup>ro</sup>curement to the same, they were prickd fo<sup>r</sup> warde, to seeke aduentures, and seele the fo<sup>r</sup>ce of Fortune.



The Prince being once neare Louaine, & thought to haue besieged y<sup>e</sup> towne (by the watche & wayting on him that the Duke vsed) was diuised to seeke many wayes to passe that he sought: one while to bid the bace to the Duke's companye, & another while to practise (for the preuenting of mischief) al the meanes that possible could be deuised: & returning sometimes to make the Duke follow: & following sometimes to putte the enemies to flight, if fortune so fauored, & occasion could be taken, & houering by & down a great time in the manner reherfed before, he had to passe by Tillemont, a bridge between two woods, which bridge his enemye thoughte to guard, or at the least, to shew some exploite at: & encamping themselves neare the Prince, the Princes vangard & maine battel, marched towards the passage. The Duke (to occupy y<sup>e</sup> time til his purposed deuice tooke place) made as though he would haue biddē battel, & came full before y<sup>e</sup> reregarde of the Prince, to a waters side, hauing on both his wings a mightie wood, and guarded behinde with waggons & cariages, & hasted apace towarde the Prince with al his power. The Prince very glad to see the enemye so desirous of battel, approached with his reregard neare the enemy, & sent with speede for the vangard & maine battel, to come backe agayn for causes conuenient, which came, & in open field presented themselves in order of battell to the enemy: but the Duke kept him and his power beyonde the water, and yet put out dyuers bands to holde the Prince in play, & drawe our people neare the great and small shotte. The Burgonions, Rutters, Almaines, & most of the lustiest souldiours about the Prince, ranne so courageously to thys encounter and pece of seruice, that sundrye were galled & hurte at the first charge, and felwe or none that aduentured anye thing at al, but escaped hardlye the daunger of body, & losse of life, the ground which the enemies had chose was so full of aduantage, & the Spaniards so valiantly maintained the skirmish. Notwithstanding, the Princes power augmented



augmented continuallie, and plyed the service, in such sort, that the enemies perforce were driven into their mayne battel. But this bickering endured so long, that the day was farre spent, and numbers of oure men were hurte. Among the chiefe a noble man (and a speciall sparke of life) called the Count De Hostraet, was shotte through the legge, of whych wounde, after he dyed. And as many stoute Souldiours that season serued well and worthylie, so was none more to be commended, than the Count De Lume, a Leagoysse, other wise called Count De la Marsh, who onely came to the Prince with a braue bande of Hozemen, for the reuengemente of his Cousins death the Count Degmond, which lost his head, as before you haue heard.

Now what should more be sayd of this matter, but that the Duke in this mean season had conuayed fife thousand shotte (the leading whereof hadde Iulian Romero) to the bridge and strayte passage, not farre from Tillemont. And this Iulian, as he was a maruellous valiant and good souldiour, of greate experience, fame, forwardnesse, and antiquitie, so did he so cunningly in a woodde at this presente lay an ambushe, that it was to be wondred at: the manner whereof followeth.

First, when he came to this strayte, he caused the Spanyardes (which in good sooth were noble Souldiours, and resolute men) to lye flatte on their faces, and as closely as could be deuised, withoute making brute or businesse: and commaunded, that no one man shoulde be so hardie as to stirre, til he gaue a warning and watchworde. Which the Spanyards obeyed in euery poynt, for they are men of great obedience & vigilancie, where they ought to be readie, & at commaundement.

The Prince hauing a minde and good occasion to passe this straitte before the night came on, marched towarde the brigge, and all the way the Duke wayted on him, making many offers to haue giuen battell: and still greate

seruice was to be sene, and the enimie was euer occupped, to bleare our eyes the better. And yet the Prince to prevent mischiefe, sente a number of Almayne shotte (named the Forlorne hope) to the selfesame woodde, where Iulian Romero lay, to be as it were a succoure to his armie, if the Duke had charged on the reregard, as was presupposed he woulde, the aduantage was so great. And this Almayne shotte were so carelesse, that as sone as they came into the woodde, they lay loking ouer a high dyke, how the Princes cariages, stragglers, vangarde, mayne battell, and wings thereof should passe ouer the bidge, and had no further consideration, but gazed befoze them, when behind their backs the enimie was priuilie placed. Well, in fine, the Princes power came on, and the artillerie, the stragglers, the cariages, the vangarde, the mayne battell, and all, sauing the reregard, passed ouer the bidge, but the reregarde, bycause it was nerte the Duke, and in danger to be sette vpon (by the Dukes power) was double garded with horsemen, besides the ordinarie bandes it was wonte to haue. And further, the vancurrers, and gallantest Gentlemen of person and manhode, attended on the reregard, to see the ende of the matter. And so sone as the reregarde came betwene the two wooddes, the Spanyardes did shewe themselves suddaynely, with suche a terrible shotte and thunder, of Muskettes, and Calyuer, that the Almaynes by terroz of the same, flang downe their peeces, and woulde haue fledde, but most of them were immediately spoyled and slayne.

The Horsemen of the reregarde were so amazed at this aduenture, that they scarce knewe what was best to be done: yet in conclusion, a noble Captayne, called Rides, and diuers other bands of Swarfe Rutters wheeled about, made head to the enimie, and were readie to giue a charge on Captayne Iulian. And albeit a greate dyke was a lette for the charge, yet the Rutters scrambled ouer the same, and as they



they myght, in the woodde, slewe diners of the Spanyardes. But the Duke plyed the matter so sharply vpon the backs of the reregarde, that Monsieur Maulberg (a Baron, with a regiment) and most of his band of braue French Souldiours, were put to the sword, or drowned, and many Burgonyon Gentlemen and Souldiours of all sortes were likewise slayne or ouerthrowne in the water: in whych conflict, we lost foure or fyue thousand men. But the Prince beholding this murther, and in danger of the shotte continually, was dismayed no whitte: for being on a high ground, full before the Dukes Camp, he sente downe succoures to hys people, and bent all his great Ordinance vpon the Duke, and stayed his whole straggling armie in the very view and shotte of the enimie, a thing most rare and strange to be seene.

The Dukes power, as they mighte notwithstanding, followed victorie, and till the darke night did separate the armies, the shotte on both sides neuer ceased. And looke what prisoners the Duke did take, before the day went out of the Skye, he caused them to be burnt all together in one house, the smoke and smell whereof came with the winde full into oure noses. Thus we encamped in that presente place, hoping for a reuenge the next morning, at whych season was Monsieur Ianlees to come oute of France to the Prince, and with him two thousande Horse, and four thousand footemen.

The Duke hearing of Monsieur Ianlees comming, wente to meete hym, but woulde not encounter hym that tyme, because the Princes Campe was so nere. And Monsieur Ianlees came ouer the water at Namure, where the garrison resisted him to theyr power, and lost a hundred or fourescore Souldiours at that tyme. Ianlees entring with bloud, marched forward brauely with hys little Campe, in the whych he hadde fyue good peeces of artillerie. And at length he came in the view of the Duke



Duke of Aluaes Camp, and being resolved to fight, rather than retire, he put his power in battell, and take the next way to the Prince, in most manly manner, as in dede hee was a skoute Gentleman. The Duke seeing his boldnesse and courage, gaue him the looking on, and let him passe, and so our Camp and his ioyned together.

Upon Ianlees comming, who broughte a maruellous gallant companye (of Gentlemen, & experimented Souldiours) it was thought, that without delay we should haue soughte out the Duke, and haue giuen him battell: and in that minde was oure whole power many a long day, but what was the occasion to the contrarie, I knowe not, and what did keepe vs asunder so long, dothe passe the reache of my reason. A weerysome time in this sort poore Souldiours turmopled, who were visited with so many wants & extremities, that it would haue pitied any Christians heart and minde to consider of: yet the willingnesse of people to doe some worthy acte or enterpryse, toke away a peece of the heauie burthen, and made the sardell of affliction the lighter to beare, and the lesse repined at: and it was a miraculous matter, for men (as some may alleadge) to liue without bread, beere, ale, or wyne, so great a time as we did: for most certaine, the scarcitie was such of the same, that some in the Campe (and right good men) for the space of twentie or thirtie dayes, neuer tasted of bread, nor dranke better than water: yet what with Apples, and frute, and other moyst things we found, the Campe was satisfied, and men (in hope of better sustenance) shifted out a sorrowful season, and nothing greued their heartes more, than that they coulde not end or ease that miserie with y hazard of battell.

Nowe when necessitie compelled the Prince to withdraue his power, or desperate to set on the enemies camp in a fixed determination, he sought daylie after the Duke of Alua, who still annoyded the fight. Yet to trayne the enemy nere by, and bring the from the wooddes to the plaine  
(that

(that the Horsemen myghte charge them.) The Prince marched towards *Leeg*, and besierged that great and goodly City, although the Rutters stiffely refused that seruice, saying, it was imperiall, and a Towne they ought not meddle withall. But fro whence that reason was racked, or wherof that answere did smel, I report me to those that knowes the handling and scanning of such cunning mysteries.

The Cannons were planted, so: all this contradiction, and the greate peeces did play vpon the Citie two or three dayes, and the Duke hearing thereof, came (as it was reported) to set on some of the Princes people and forces. The Prince hauing examined a prisoner that was taken at that present, & vnderstanding where and which way the Duke might be found, sent for his chiefe Captaines, & commanded anone after midnight, to dislodge quietly without sound of Drumme or Trüpet, & march (as they might) towards the Duke: albeit the night was darke, and the weather inconstant, which was a great trouble to the Camp, yet the Prince was resolved to trie out by aduersitie, whether the Duke or he had the more hard destiny and aduerse fortune. Nowe the Souldiours beganne to reioyce, and although the way was combersome, and the nighte darke and vncomfortable, yet euery man bore a portion of the trauell, in hope to come quickly to an end of the trouble. And by my troth, the maner of our march was so difficult and strange, (and y<sup>e</sup> Camp went so scattered abroade at all aduentures) that we were like ynough before day to be some of vs ferne mile asunder, or to happen in the hands of the Duke of Aluaes watch vnawares, and so we did: for some taking the Rutters (that the Duke had) to be our men, and mistaking the way they should haue kept, fell in the middle of y<sup>e</sup> Duke of Aluaes centinell, but they were but a few that so foolishly wandred. Yet by this blind occasion, the Duke gat light of the Princes purpose, and thereon entrenched himselfe and his Camp in a strong ground, to his greate suretie and ad-



nantage. And at the bzeake of day, our Camp begā chere-  
fully to sounde a marche, full in the hearing of the Dukes  
power. I doubt, if I made mention of the mirth that oure  
people had, some fyne fellows woulde scarcely beleue it :  
wherefore I procede to my matter.

The Campes thus being nere together, were both in  
order of battell, the Dukes entrenched, and the Prince in  
open playne : and the Princes power presented the battell  
in a braue and goodly order, but it was refused. Notwith-  
standing, y<sup>e</sup> enimie issued out of their trench by multitudes,  
and offered y<sup>e</sup> skymish: but that was thought but a meane,  
to gall & hurt our best Sculdoures (as in deede a skirmish  
in some cases is no better) wherefore the Prince marched a-  
bout more needefull affaires, and yet helde the enimie play  
ynough, with a sufficiente company, for that purpose they  
came out for. In a litile while after, knowing y<sup>e</sup> the Duke  
would not fight (though he were able, and durst if he pleas-  
ed) the Prince meante to depart from *Flaunders*, and com-  
ming by trifling Townes, yet some of them well walled,  
he did what he thought conuenient to those Townes, and  
at length came befoze *Chatten Caembersey*, which would not  
yeelde, and so the Prince beseged it : but the batterie was  
so farre off, that it did no greate hurt. And the Duke min-  
ding to shew some resue to the Towne, came in the sighte  
of our Camp, and lodged betwene two great wooddes. Yet  
nothing worthy noting was attempted. And the Prince,  
seeing time was consumed, without anye profit or lykely-  
hode of battell, he marched into *France*, entring betwene  
*Gwyse*, and *Saint Quintains*, two speciall Townes of the  
French Kyngs : and comming nowe into a goodly Coun-  
trei full of holesome Wyues, and healthfull thyngs (that  
oure sick and soze weatherbeaten Campe needed, and  
were gladde of) we rested awhile, and fylled our emptye  
bellies wyth benefyte of the earthe, and blessings of  
God : and so in small processe of time returned into *Straes-  
brug*.



*brag*, and other partes of *Germanie*, where after this long boya<sup>g</sup>e, and hard fare, many dyed of suche diseases as fol-  
lowes the miserable estate of man, and cuttes off the dayes  
and yue<sup>s</sup> of Millions. The Prince went in a while after  
to hys house at *Dillenbrough*, and euery other person to suche  
places and Countreys as best they liked, and mighte most  
contente they<sup>r</sup> mindes and calling, and the Duke drewe  
hymselfe towarde<sup>s</sup> *Antwerpe*, and both their great armyes  
were disper<sup>s</sup>ed and seuered asunder in a shor<sup>t</sup>e season.  
But *Flaunders*, be<sup>y</sup>ng ordey<sup>n</sup>ed to troubles, coulde no  
season rest, withoute some persecucion and practisers to  
bere and disquiet the state, so that thousandes were al-  
wayes bu<sup>l</sup>lie occupped, not only to molest the Spanyards,  
but also to gette and winne suche plottes, and peeces of the  
Countrey of *Flaunders*, *Zelande*, and *Hollande*, as myght bee  
an occasion to bying the Priuiledges of all the Countrey  
in question, and debate their causes at large. And havyng  
hadde some talke one with another of these matters (that  
were againste the Dukes gouernemente) the Count De  
Lume, otherw<sup>i</sup>se named Count De la March, a lustye  
Gentleman, came with a sufficiente power, and toke the  
*Breell*, an Iland that fronts vpon *Flushing*.

The Prince and his brother was or had bin befor<sup>e</sup> with  
the Duke de Dupont, and the Prince of Condey, in greate  
seruices, so<sup>r</sup> the whiche they wanne worthy fame so<sup>r</sup> they<sup>r</sup>  
adu<sup>n</sup>ture with the said Prince of Condey. And the Prince  
of Orange, woulde take no charge, but as it seemed, came to  
see how the affayres of the world would burst out or finish.  
Yet in the ende, the Prince of Orange and his brother came  
home, and the Count Lodwike, to exercise his greate  
heart in great things, went against y<sup>e</sup> Duke of Alua, & was  
receiued into *Mounts* in *Henals*, a str<sup>o</sup>g towne. The Duke  
not asleepe, but had so waking a wit, y<sup>e</sup> he would rise earely  
to bid his enemies good morow, came & besieged *Mounts* in  
*Henals* (Sir Willia<sup>m</sup> Morga being then w<sup>i</sup> Count Lodwike) &

With much businesse and great adoe, vpon hard conditions, agreed, that the Count Lodwike, and all his noble Souldiers, shoulde departe with bagge and baggage, whersoener they pleased. The Duke most honorably saw the capitulation obserued and kept, and the Count Lodwike and hys friends marched from *Mounts* with honoꝝ ynough, though not so muche as they looked for. And thus was that broyle taken by and ended, and a new to be practised and begonne.

If I haue placed y<sup>e</sup> winning of y<sup>e</sup> *Breell*, taken by y<sup>e</sup> Count de Lume, befoze other things that hapned somewhat befoze y<sup>e</sup> erploite, oꝝ rehearsed any thing out of his due order in y<sup>e</sup> rest of my work, I trust y<sup>e</sup> report of mine shall hurt no whit y<sup>e</sup> troth of euery matter seuerally by me penned: for in mistaking one season for another, and not borowing out of any booke (that flatters the time) any peece of matter, at their great Torch to light my little Candle, I might wader out of my way, and so goe aboute, but can not misse the coming home to the troth of my purposed enterpryse. For I haue written nothing, but eyther mine owne eyes behelde it, oꝝ at some one time oꝝ other I was in the Countrey whyle it was a doing. And so, the losse of the *Breell*, to conclude, caused *Flushing*, and other places to reuolt, and argued, that in the necke of those changes, would happen an infinite number of vnwelcome chances, to suche as thought themselves of fortune most assured.

The whole Countrey thzough, was so farre out of quiet, that y<sup>e</sup> Duke not only fylled the new Citadell in *Antwerpe* with Souldiers, but lykelwise, put great garrisons in all places & Townes of strength, whych garrisons peradventure behaued themselves not so well towarde the people, as they looked for. And as they mighte meete to reason of those matters, and other thyngs of weyghte, they muttered, in muche mislike at many occasions, but moze for feare than fauoure, they followed the Dukes deuce, and both with money and men ayded the Duke, agaynst those



those that were disturbers of his state. Yet suche broyles were abroach, as coulde not be remedied without muche bloudshed, and hardly that way, as experience in processe of tyme did declare.

Now in the heate of this murmuring, an infinite sort of scattered people dyewe to the Counte Lodwike, and many made sute to the Prince, to steppe in and thruste out strangers, especially Spaniardes, that then were generally despised. The Prince hauing many iniuries offered him, and remembryng olde wrongs and newe displeasures, beganne to giue care to such persuasions, as touched the priuiledges and liberties of those Countries the Duke hadde gouernement of, and by deepe foresight and iudgement, auoyded the daunger of his enemyes, and so stode on hys garde in all thinges he went about. At which resolution, his friends & folowers reioiced, and euery one according to his ability, put to a helping hand, & sent him such succoures, as he was able in person and power in a shorthe time to make hys enemye on land or on Sea, such was his foresight, his force, & good fortune.

Nowe the towne in *Holland* and *Zealand* began to bende apace, to be at y<sup>e</sup> Princes deuotion, and the Prince had set oute a number of Shyppes, whiche often encountred their enemyes, and wanne greate and riche prizes, and seldome losse anye thing, but still foughte it oute so valiauntlye, that victoery seemed to be theirs by inheritance.

A flecte of Shippes came from *Spaine* to the Dukes aide, and some of the beste of them happen into the *Flushingers* handes, commyng into the *Hauen*, whiche Shippes were fraught with treasure, that serued the Princes turne a long time after. The Counte Lodwike had done verve greate things in sundry enterprises, and service of no little charge and hazarde, and was like to proue the oddest Souldier of a noble man in his dayes: but the Duke did alwayes so



pursue him with a great power, and great practises, that he cou'd not, nor was not able, to prevent the Dukes pollicies and Stratagemes. And so at an ouerthrowe, whiche fell on the Counte Lodwikes syde, hee was forced to flye, and as some affoyme, was eyther drowned, or slaine after. Sir Asster Clap. and Maister Font, English Gentlemanne, were at this seruice, and Font was slaine there.

Diuers other Gentlemen priuily, without the knowlege of oure Prince, and his highnesse honorable Councell, stole by secrete meanes, out of *England* to *Flushing*, for the whiche at their returne home againe, they were a long while frowned vpon, and could not come in Courte. Sir Humfrey Gylbart was their Generall, Capitaine Cotten, Capitaine Morgan, Capitaine Chester: and many other Capitaines and Gentlemen, for knowlege sake, fame and entertainment, wente at that time ouer, and sell thereby in displeasure here at home.

The Spaniards many times came nere to *Flushing*, & the English bands met them often, between whom was diuers hote skirmishes, & couragious encountre: & albeit that the English deserued muche praise for their forwardnesse, the Spaniards were not behind in any forward seruice, or struing for fame & place: for at euery meeting, the Spaniarde both in nimblenesse & stoute behauior, seemed often to want neither agilitie, courage, nor conduct: & the Gentlemen and old soldiors of them, durst tug and wrestle for the maistrery with any one that they encountred, as our wise & stout soldiors gladly do confesse, & thinke it a greate iniury, to haue a stoute enemy any way euil spoken of.

As very many towns fel dayly to the Prince (whiche he fortified strongly,) so a towne among the reste called *Harlem*, was so well manned and defended, that the same thereof muste needes be sounded with a Trumpet of everlasting renoume, of whiche I mind a little to speake, as muche to shew what & manlinesse of man can do, as to declare what  
honour

honour belongs to stout souldiers.

*Harlam* being a place of strength, somewhat by nature thow the mean of water (& other causes a fortresse requirith) was manned & furnished with most assured souldiers. And as the Duke had greates adoe in many other places, & made great armies to besiege them, so at the siege of this, y<sup>e</sup> Duke losse such a nūber of mē, as is incredible to be spokē, & would hardly be beleueed: for women there were of suche courage, as was wonderful to beholde: & one woman toke a miraculous charge vpon hir, which was, to haue the leading of men (a matter to be smiled at, but yet of troth, and to be credited. Then if women wer so stout, what might men of noble hart & mind proue: for sooth their actes & dedes did shew thē to be in courage more than Lions, & in worth & valor more than a. C. M. of the ordinarie sorte of people. For some haue bin in many seruices, that neuer saw y<sup>e</sup> like of *Harlam* souldiers: & men may trauel to the very confines of Christendome, & not find such people, as were at *Harlam* (besieged by the Spaniardes) a nation in these dayes, that can both besiege a town, & can do much in the field) whiche people had such resolute minds & willing bodies, to defend & suffer whatsoeuer might happen, y<sup>e</sup> they seemed to be made & formed, not out of our common mould, but wrought and created of some speciall substance & workmanship, wherein y<sup>e</sup> glorie of manhood & valiancie was cunningly cōprehēded. O that my stile were so stately (& could carry such life) that I might worthily expresse the noblenes of their courages. But I may not praise thē alone for their corage, but exalt thē also for their policies, & sufferāce of al misery & aduersities a long season, & in a maner past y<sup>e</sup> power of mans weak nature & conditiō. But alas, y<sup>e</sup> while they were overtaken w<sup>th</sup> too much truste in their enimies words, & led at length like shēpe to y<sup>e</sup> slaughter: but how I list not tell you, referring y<sup>e</sup> iudgement of such like actions, to those that haue y<sup>e</sup> managing of mighty matters, & knows how to cōquere & gouerne. Wel



Well, to finish and knitte vpp the scanning and seruices of the famous souldiours of *Harlam*, to the furthest of my abilitie, I will honour the bones of all suche warlike people, wheresoeuer I shal find them, and with perpetuall fame aduance their bodies to the lofty skies.

Very many practises the Duke both by force and finesse wrought against the Prince, and was assisted and aided with many of the states of the low Countrie, to entrap the Prince, or take the Townes he had in his hands from him, but nothing could preuaile, although great & huge armies of men went aboute the ouerthrowe of the Prince and his fortresses. And such Towns were at his commaundment in *Hollande & Zelande*, that the greatest armies of the world coulde not winne, without maruelous charges and losse of people to the assaylantes, whiche was well tryed and proved, by the successe that the Duke and his friendes continuallye founde, who neuer ceased to worke al possible means to attaine that he soughte, and that whiche his power and people were thought might commaunde (which was not a little) bycause their forces were double and treble in number againste the Princes power, and helde the whole countreies in awe and subiection.

The Princes good fortune so much amended, & he grew so mightie both by sea and lande, that neyther the Duke sometimes would meete hym, nor many others (of abilitie full greate) had minde to encounter his power, whiche alwayes were resolved to fight, and seldome toke foyle or disgrace, but once before *Harlam*, in offering to victuall the Towne, and at some other seasons, that are not of so great moment, as merites much memorie. And the Prince taking holde of thankfull fortune, and folowing to the furthest, the good hap was offered him, besieged some places that the Spaniards were in, and wan those fortes or towns, and disposed of them what he thoughte most necessarie. Among the whiche townes, *Middlebroeg* was one, where the  
service



service was greate, and muche time was spent, before the Spaniards were cleane thrust out thereof.

Many attempts were made to *Amsterdam*, a goodly seate, and a strong, but that was manye times, or for the moste part, addicted to the Spaniards, and so were other towns, that the Prince made but little accompte of.

But now (to make shorte) the Prince having in a manner all *Zeland* and *Holland*, and all the strong places therof, had so wearyed the Duke, and the states of *Flaunders*, that he possessed them in peace: or if they were assaulted, they were so well defended, that the Duke not onely losse byr laboure, but lyke wise greate numbers of menne, so that the King of *Spain* gaining but little by the Dukes gouernement, as manye supposed, sente for him away, or he made sute to goe home, and the Duke Medina Cely was sente to remaine in his place. But the Duke Medina Cely seeing that the state of *Flaunders* (and all the lowe Countreies) was so rent and torne in peces, that he coude not kmitte them together againe, therefore (as it seemed, and manye wise men did deeme,) he batted himselfe thence, and minded not to take charge and gouernement of a Countrey so much disquieted, and so farre out of order. And in his place came the Duke de Terra Nona.

This Duke de Terra Nona, when he came into *Flaunders*, and hadde seene and founde, that seuerer Justice, and straighte and harde handling, broughte the people in mislike (and made many a great mischiefelpe lurking in a hollowe heart) beganne his gouernement moze mildelpe, and vled a moze gentle manner towards the inhabitantes of *Flaunders*, and yet was sterne and Route ynoughe (as farre as his power stretched) towards the Prince of *Orange*, and manye times annoyed him, and belod him very hardly.

But in effect, neither the Duke of Aluacs greate labour,

bour, seruice, nor securitie, nor the Duke de Terra Nouaes courtesie and gentleness: coulde reclaime those people that tooke a toy in their heads, like some kinde of Hawkes that will not come to the fawknars fist, nor giue eare to any straungers lewring. And surely, if some hawke haue once taken the checke, she will royle abroad at hir pleasure, and pray where she listeth. But to the matter, the common people of *Flanders* were so vexed w<sup>th</sup> the Spaniardes, and troubled with straungers in their Countrey, that they cared not to what seruitude they offered themselues, so they myghte be ridde of them, that so long hadde ouerlaboured them, and tyred bothe theyr mindes and bodies.

In thys wandring sorte of disliking, and uncertaine manner of suretie, the poore and common people were caryed aboute with suche a multitude of miserable conceites, that they knewe not to whome to complaine, nor vnto what piller they shoulde leane, and in a manner were readye to flacke and drop downe, vnder the masse of mischief, that lay as heauy as lead on their shoulders.

The Duke de Terra Noua no lesse troubled in iudgement (for the discharge of his care and auctoritie) was often times not well in health, and so consuming some yeares in doyng what he determined, at length he gaue ouer hys lyfe, and *Flanders* remained a season withoute anye strange Governoure, albeit molested, (as the people thoughte, not a little) with the Spaniardes, whiche of all griefes, did moste gripe them, and gladdest they were to be eased of.

And to bying to passe some greate matter, and to be discharged of thys their daylye sorrowe and continuall clogge, the States in companies as their mindes were bent (and sauoured that faction whiche wroughte agaynst the Spaniardes) dydde deuise and talke of the recoueryng of their liberties. And for the attayning of the same, they  
politiquely



politiquely layde a playne plotte, and swore among themselves, to performe every point and pcece of theyr purpose.

The Spaniards both by outward countenance and bending of browes, perceiued there was some priuie practise a working, and prepared to withstande it by all the meanes possible mighte be deuised: and keeping close their owne counsell, concluded, that when occasion came, they woulde putte in execution the matter they hadde treated of, and all the meane whyle they furnished themselves wth euery thing fitte for their purposed deuise.

The contrarie parte casting no perill, and standyng too muche to the opinion and vayne hope of a multitude, wente openly about their businesse, and assembled of their friendes a greate compaign together, able with good gouernement to haue gyuen a battell: whiche band and carelesse company lay in *Antwerpe*, solacing themselves, and making good chere, as al things shoulde haue gone with the according to their wish.

But euen as those people that Samson destroyed amide their banquets and feasting (smarting himselfe with committing the murther) or rather like wilfull weaklings & wanton children that neuer tasted the strength of a man, beleues, that blunt wasters wil bite like sharpe weapons, and so runne on heade to their owne harmes, and behaue themselves so carelesly for the combate, that one man well aduised, shall beate a hundred of those harebraines. Euen so, & in no better plight, or in a worse case, & multitude were taken and putte to open soyle and reproche, to the greate shame and oversight of themselves, that hadde charge, and disgrace of euery good souldior that they lost.

The Spaniards wisely and warily (but sure about a bloody and cruel act) came as closely as they could, together into



the Castell of *Antwerpe* (whiche the Duke of Alua caused to be builde) and there consulted quickly on the thing they hastily went aboute: and making no more ado, but either to kill or be killed, aboute dinner time when some haue more mind of their belly, than their safetie (and fall to quaffing and bibbing, when greedie hunger and thirste shoulde be moderated with sober diet) the Spaniardes issued furiously into the Citie, into whiche the greates Cannon shotte came roaring before them, and with them came suche a thunder of harquebuzers, and trampling of horses, that the Towne thoughte, that Hel hadde bene burst open, or that the Skies hadde fallen vpon them by some sodaine rattle and thunder-cracke from the Heauens. But well away, manie a silly soule by this bloudy bargaine were sente vnto Heauen or Hell, and the simple people that trusted to the wisdom of their leaders, fell all by their owne follie to the mercie of the Spaniardes, whiche are not ignorant in the vantage of victorie, nor ouer-mercifull till they finde themselves Masters of the fildes, and in secure and peaceable estate.

Thus *Antwerpe* was thoroughly spoiled, and in manie places burnt and defaced, where the Spaniardes founde suche a deale of golde and treasure, as hath not bin possessed by one spoile in anye two Townes these manie hundred yeares: and there was taken prisoner, the young Counte Degmond, with some others of good reputation: a warning to all wanton Cities, hereafter to giue and keepe better watche of their libertie and wealth, and to cause the inhabitants of euery Towne and Corporation, to haue suche regarde of God, and the leading of their liues, that they come not into the indignation of the highest, who often doth visite the base conditions of the people, with sword, fire and pestilence, and manie other punishments and plagues, that oure present daies doeth present vs, and the worldes wickednesse cannot shunne.

It is to be thought, while these things were a doing, & Don Iohn de Austria was drawing hymselfe towards Flaunders: but as it fell out by matter that followeth, a verie fewe of good calling in the state were willing to receiue him, especially willing to be gouerned with a straunger, or stande any way pleased with the Spanyardes in the lowe Countrey. For long before the murther and bloudshed in *Antwerpe*, there was so hotte a fyre kyndled in the soynace of the bycast, and fancies of men, that all the water in *Antwerpe Towne* coulde not quenche. And after this furious facte was committed, neyther gentle wordes, nor mylde Gouvernours (if they were straungers, that should speake or gouerne) coulde salue the swelling sore and bleeding woundes of the tormented myndes, that dayly were perplexed with thoughte and care of theyr poore Countrey of Flaunders. Howe the Spanyardes hadde used the people at anye tyme, or howe this ynquenchable fyre of malice dyd firste take flame, or howe the heartes of the commons conceyued suche offence, as was past forgiveness, I neyther knowe nor meddle withall: but I knowe, and experience teacheth, it is a harde and a dangerous ha;arde, to happen in the hatred of a multitude, and be condemned of the common people, albeit theyr iudgements are not alwayes sounde, yet their displeasure is durable, and so sore to susteyne, that the wisest of all tymes and ages, haue bin contente to beare with theyr follyes, and rather flatter them to haue their fauoures, than with Millions of Gold dwell any while in theyr dislike. And malice is of the nature of Cancker, whiche the longer it is suffered on good mettall, or badde, the further and deeper it eates, and rusteth the thing it taketh holde of. Or hatred may better be compared to Gunnepowder, that the longer it is dreyed, the sooner it taketh fire, and when one corne thereof is touched with a hote coale, it not only consumes it selfe with a flashing flame, but burnes or hurtes all that standes nere it,



or commes in the compasse of his flame and furie. And commonly malice is neuer quenched, till reuenge hath produced some notable mischiefe, and so y<sup>e</sup> person y<sup>e</sup> striketh, and body that is striken (eyther by rigour of law, or violence vsed by weapon) end in a short season, their liues, that long haue bin a nourishing. Wherefore as diuers affirme & confesse, there is not a greater enimie to comon wealthes and Countreys, thā that gnawing wo<sup>r</sup>me of continuall malice & hatred, which for small offences, hath made so greate a dissention, that mighty Monarkes haue bin shaken downe withall, & many a state at this day stands tottering thereby, & are readie whē a rough tempest both blow, to tpe in y<sup>e</sup> dust, or feele the force of a terrible blast. God graunt that *Flanders* be not the first, that hatred and malice (by mean of dissention) shall bring to decay. So now to my matter, as briefly as I meant to penne out this discourse.

The coming downe of Don Iohn to the low Countreys, made the Spanyards loke for some succoure, and moued the people of *Flanders* to thinke and loke of other matters, and in a while they openly published, that they coulde not abide the behauiour of strangers, and woulde not permitte any mo to enter and gouerne, befoze the Spanyardes wer expelled or drawn by the King from their territories, offering all obedience and duties to the King of *spayne* their Maister, if the Spanyardes and strangers were taken from thē. But their offer and demaund toke suche small hold in the fauour of Don Iohn, that great matter grew therof, as I might perceiue, being in *Brussels*, by their musters there, and Don Iohns preparation lying at *Lukenbrugg*, and after, at a Towne called *H. w.* The States, I meane suche as held against Don Iohn, somewhat standing on their gard, made streight orders for the Spanyardes, if they vsed violence, and hadde so good an eye ouer them, that at a tyme, when the Spanyards thought to do some exployte, a Gentleman of *Scotland*, named Captayne Bassorde, lying in a vil-  
lage



lage with his regiment of Scottishmen, had such a hande over the Spanyards, as they no whit liked, and yet they assaulted the Scottishmen, whiche at that time were but ill provided. All this season, and a long whyle before, was the right Honorable Maister Doctor Wilson (now Secretary to the Queenes Maestrie) Lorde Embassado: in *Flanders*: and two severall times was sent in Embassage thither, at that time, the Captayne of the Ile of *Vright*, called Mayster Edward Horsley, for to make peace, and for suche causes as pleased our Prince.

Embassadors were sente thither from the Emperour, and from the Electors and States of *Germany*, and in long debating of matters (to the which the Bishop of *Leege* came, a great Segnior, and stout Prelate) a peace was concluded, and for the ioy thereof, I saw a generall Procession in *Bruzels*, where all the Embassadors and States were (saving the Embassado: of *Englande*, and all the Nobilitie of *Flaunders*) whiche made such a shewe, and reached such a length in the streets, and tarried so long there, as was a wonder to beholde, and the strangest view that hadde bin seene in that place many yeares before, the number of Gentlemen was so great, and the commo people so many.

But all this reioycing turned to woe & lamentatiō with in a short tyme after, for whē the Spanyards were gone, there fell out such matter betwene y<sup>e</sup> States and Don Iohn, that the Spanyards came agayne, but not to *Antwerp*, for that the States had politikelie possessed, & many other Townes before, of great importance & strength: and Don Iohn and his people were assembled in *Namure*, & much businesse was set abroche betwene these two sides (after Don Iohn had bin triumphantly received into *Bruzels*) and either of these parties armed themselves, & wrought for their advantage what pleased best their fancies, some sending into *spaine*, & some sending otherwhere, the necessitie of both their causes so required, & the troublous time they felt, enforced those causes.

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The states nowe beganne to leane to the Prince of orange, and deale thoroughly and playnely with him, whiche was a greate strength vnto them, and an occasion to reforme the rest of the nobilitie to drawe one kinde of way, if they determined to withstande Don Iohn, as they made shew they would. But some that made promise therevnto, brake suddaynely, and turned to Don Iohn, who was leauing of a power to inuade *Flanders*, and had together both footemen and Horsesmen, a very gallante company, and those were auntient and perfitte Souldiours, that had serued many yeares in great aduentures and hazards. And to speake as the common fame wente (and right wise and noble men did report,) Don Iohn for his owne person was a wise and most famous noble man, that well was worthie (for many good partes in him) to haue had the leading of a Camp as great as King Alexanders army of *Macedonie*, whose men of warre were at the conquering of most parte of the worlde. Thus was Don Iohn and his power in a manner readie to marche, and lay aboute *Namure*, to tarrie the coming of some such bands of Horsesmen as he looked for, and he fully furnished of such things as he wanted.

The States had in like sorte assembled a very great armie, and were as readie to marche, as occasion fell out: and knowing that their enimies must haue much adoe, before they could winne any Towne of credite, the States determined to weerie Don Iohn, and so by policie and practise to strue with him, rather than with playne force and fight to encounter him: for their nightie walled Townes were a great blocke in Don Iohns way, whiche neyther coulde bee wonne by their enimies, nor yet well could be beseged, but that the States hadde a meane to aide the Townes, and power ynough to raise the sege, and could at any aduantage giue Don Iohn battell, without whiche aduantage it were no wisdome to deale with a strong and stout enimie.

And



And on that resolution stande the noblest Souldiours now lining. And woulde to God that towardly Prince and good Gentleman, the King of *Portingall*, had stode on that poynte, whiche shall be spoken of in another matter, God sparing me life. But now to my purpose I procede. But as the States looked to take Don Iohn at aduantage, or aſwærie him and his Souldiours with long warres and much labour, Don Iohn and his company were so well experimented with paynes, and accustomed so often to suffer the miserie of warres, that they had such able mindes and bodies to endure and beare off the burthen of aduersitie, y the States should not easily that way haue had their willes, ouer them, although that the Spanyardes, by long rest and delicacie of *Flaunders*, were become somewhat slouthfull and effeminate: yet are they of such courage and complerion, when force doth compell them to trudge & to toyle, that straightwayes, they nature is conuerted to their old manner and custome, and they coulde for a neede frame themselves to a new trade of trauell. Whiche shewes them as well armed within their mindes (where the man is best known) as clad and defenced without, where nothing is good, if the minde set it not forwarde, and maintaine it to the vttermoſt. And the opinion of some souldiers is, both at home and abroad, that who so euer is daintie and vnseasoned, and can not march in hardnesse, without a bagge and a bottle, were better be by a warme fire, thā in a cold field, & will do moze harme in a little pæce of beefe, than he cā do good in a great battaile, he is so loaded with his trinkets, & mindes so much his meat. And although in a splene I haue spoken of the Spaniard, (yet no other than he deserues) so haue I seene both Frenchman and Borgonyon (and some of our owne nation besydes,) that in the fælde are moze greedy of glorie, than hungry in the house, when a banquet is on the table. I must leane off this spæch, and follow another humour. So Don Iohn & the States, as you haue heard,

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devised how the one might deceiue the other : and yet neyther of them both ventured further than good occasion commanded them. And in this colde kind of seruice, the souldiours remainned, amyd the heate of Sommer a long season, till Don Iohns power began to bidde the bare, and by a great mischaunce toke the power of the States at aduantage, and slewe some of them, and hadde the reste in chace as farre as they durste followe, and so that byckering ended.

The States vpon this little ouerthrow (wherin the Scottish bands had the most hurt) attended both horsemen and footemen, out of *Germanie*, & gaue Don Iohn leaue a while to march about a peece of the Countrey, minding as sone as the Casseneer came down, to goe to the fielde agayne. And in the mean time, the States put their people in garrisons.

Their enemies hauing a little leasure & romth giuen them (more for some colorable cause, than any constraint) began to spurre about, and espy their commoditie: and by sleight and force (as a camp can not want neither of the both) slipped into some simple seates and townes, & carrying away credite with them, bycause they kept the fielde, were receiued into many places, and chiefly into *Louain*. And some such as would vntwist the fast thread of Faith & Promise, became so slipper of their wordes (when they minded to breake) that the States coulde not holde them: and so after flickering fortune: they fled, a matter worthy to be touched, but left off by me, to a riper iudgemente, that clearely can construe the reason of these rotten causes.

A notable souldier called Monsieur de la Moet, gouernour of *Graveling*, went from the States at this time (as hee said) to keepe the town, for the king. And diuerse others as the Count D'ines, Monsieur Barlymont, and more than I can name, made their owne way to go whether they pleased: and for the time, the world in *Flanders* was quicke, & dead.

head: they were in dolor and heauinesse, that had not a light minde to comfort a sad hart: for the world was so sorrowful, or so suttle, y<sup>e</sup> a man might not scarcely at that season laugh with his friend, nor trust his owne brother. For cunning and craft, had put constancie out of countenance, and finesse, with fickle nesse, were matched together in one corner of *Flaunders*, or another: and so the world wagged, & the weakest were thrust to the wall, and the strongest coulde struggle and strue againste all things, but the streame.

When time came on to set abroch matters that mighte not runne cleare till the lees were settled (and Time wold be knowne fro vineger & Cleriuce,) the euent of weighty matter burst out, and made euery man of both the sides, Don Iohns, and the States, loke wel to their footing: for of necessitie, and countreys cause (besides the desire of fame & honour) both these armies must march, to view the one the other, and in open field, do somewhat for reputations sake, and that they came for. And as farre as I can iudge, prince Cassemeer at this time was not come to the states. Well, the camps were in march, and both of them desirous to do what best became the time: and among the states, were crepte (for seruice sake alone) some English Gentlemen, with such bandes as they coulde happen vpon, and furnishe at their own charges. And with these English Gentlemē, ioynded for good will in the fielde, the Scottish regiment (as I hearde.) And the English had an intente to march to the Camp, of the states. Don Iohns power hauing intelligēce therof, made haste to p<sup>r</sup>euente them, and so the skirmishe beganne, and lasted a long season, and for certaintie, had not the Englishe and Scottishe nations done they<sup>r</sup> dutie and berye well withal, they hadde bene repulsed, and peraduenture ouerthrowen. I woulde praise and commend anye manne that did well that daye, but for that



I am ignorant of that which was truly done, and would be loath to flatter one, and offend another, I omitte all their names, but master Iohn Norrises, for this presente, til my next booke of other warres be printed and published, at whiche time I shall know the truth of that I treat of.

The Calameer with a greates power of horsemen, and footemen, was come at this presente, or in a short while after, and Don Iohn then was to consider and aide the danger might haue followed, for his armie was a great deale lesse in number than the power of the states, and oftentimes the states were in minde to besiege *Louaine*, but neuer were readie to watch for the enemies, & offer the battel, wherby was looked for dayle: the Burgonions side were also well disposed, & it was certainly thought, that Don Iohns side was as gallant. Howe were pollicies and stratagies to be seene. Howe the shewe of warre, and clattering of armes might be hard. How the powder and bullets were prepared, and stout and manly skirmishes began afresh, and the souldiers bespredde the plaines, as thicke as the blacke crows, that flies swarming out of the wilde wooddes: and the whole people and commons of *Flanders* thought they should be rid of their enimies, that so long had enpowershed their rich and plentifull countrey. For they smarted (poore soules) that often had bin spoiled, & they felt all the wrong, that knewe not howe to righte themselves, but by Gods grace, and gazing after victorie.

At this present time, victualles began to be marvelous deere, and after the Rutters and Calameeres company were payed, money among other bandes was harde to come by, and in that sort, a verie long time was spent and consumed, yet some were relieved with that treasure the states could spare: but in fine, such scarcitie and miserie came on and fel among thousands, that both sicknesses and sodaine death ensued. And at length, the plague, (of whiche manye made an ende of their liues) was sparkled both in Campe and in Coun-



Country, & no one place was free from one disease or other, that either stood neare the Campe, or where the sicke souldiers repaired. And some of our English Gentlemen dropped downe in that visitation, as Mayster Thomas Cobham, and others, no greate number. This sorrowfull and fearefull sicknesse as much bered & troubled the poore people, as any miserie they felt, & made the troubled conscience more afraid, than the view of all Don Iohns power.

Much practising and working there was for a peace by oure Princes Ambassadors, that were soze to see so much bloudshed and mischief as might fall oute vppon a battell. And manye times peace was expected, and likely to haue happened, if Don Iohn would haue agreed to any reasonable conditions. But in conclusion, Don Iohn, by a hope hee had in some faction or practise (either among Pater Noster men, a company so called, or others fauozers to Don Iohns doing) would not agree to the peace, nor do any thing that stood against his determination. So, continuing in a resolute minde, he thrust diuers bands of Spaniards, and other souldiours, into such Townes and Fortresses as hee hadde possessed, and with suche power as he had lefte, marched towarde *Namur* or those parties, meaning not, as he made shew therof, to trouble the States any further for a season. There were some that threw down churches and bered and troubled religious persons, against whom rose a company of Wallons, naming themselves Pater Noster men, & sometimes encountred those that destroyed religious houses, & made laughter on the, as they might make their partie good: & that matter is not yet pacified, for about *Gant* & other townes are many that seeke to do mischief, & namely to their owne nation and countrey men. Which is a beginning of sorrow, & a soze dangerous thing to continue.

The power of Don Iohn in manye sortes of seruices hath done what they coulde, to distresse the bandes that the States giue entertainment to, but the States and their

people are, and haue bin too strong for Don Iohns power. Sundrie skirmishes, & one of the before *Lamine*, I could a little write of: but, for that no great thing was atchieued by the, I lap the by among other matters, that I neither haue occasion much to dilate off, nor you are desirous to heare. For, he that shall write of euery thing w<sup>h</sup> is done, hadde neede to haue manie bodies, to be in euery place at once, and twice so many eies, to note in what order the thinges fell out, or otherwise he maye misse of the troth, as some haue, that were in the fiede when seruice was to be seene, whose intelligence I hadde, and yet an other in the same company both tell me a contrary tale: For whiles one is in the skirmish, and another is a foraging, they are seuerally occupied, and will make sundry discourses: and for my owne parte, I proteste before God, I hadde rather followe the truth of the matter, than the flatterie of the time: so that if anye error haue passed my pen, it oughte to be pardonable, for that I hate to publishe & set out a fable, and loue to preferre the knowlege and vnderstanding of a troth: and speaking of any man or matter, enemy or friend, I woulde veld them due praise and commendation, not onely for to winne my wo<sup>r</sup>k the more credite, but lyke wise to vse a kinde of duetifull courtesie, and so to pay in reporte euery person lyuing, the debt that I do owe him.

Nowe it is to be vnderstode, that whiles Don Iohn was busie aboute his warres, the Queenes Maiestie sente Embassadours to treat of amitie and peace, (as you haue hearde before) and the laste that went ouer aboute these chargeable affairs, were two most honorable personages, the Lord Cobham, & sir Francis Walsingham, on whom attended as gallant a traine of Gentlemen, as wente from hence to *Flaunders* these twenty yeares. And as the true reporte goeth, these noble Embassadours helde and kepte suche chere (in a dære and scarce season for viualles) that the like hath not bene seene, neyther of late, nor manie

yeares



peres agoe. And the bountie that one of the Embassadors  
 vsed (whose deedes shall shewe his name) out of his owne  
 purse and francke liberalitie, erected, and is to be hono-  
 red for euer. And when these Embassadors had laine there  
 a greate while, (and finished that was thought necessarie &  
 mete) they returned to the Courte. Since whiche time (as  
 God ordaines all thinges) Don Iohn is dead, and many o-  
 ther noble men more. And the plague is so hore among the  
 Spaniards, and the rest that lies in camps (as is to bee pro-  
 ued) that euen as a shepheard both point oute his shepe,  
 and culles out those lambes that he sendes to the slaughter  
 house: so God (as it seemeth) with his stretched out arme,  
 toucheth whome he pleaseth, & by the finger of his wrath  
 and scourge of plague, slings thousandes underfoote, and  
 tumbles the in their graue. And this is a thing maruelously  
 to be noted (not specially abroad, but wisely here at home)  
 that some haue no power to goe from the plague, and some,  
 goe where they will; the plague dooth followe them. For  
 it skipeth ouer houses and householdes, and enters in their  
 doores, that maketh lasse bothe doores and windowes, not  
 brought altogether by infection of clothes and garmentes,  
 but sent for foule offences, by a power past our iudgemēt,  
 and is to be presupposed a messenger of Gods anger, & an  
 Angell of ire, that waytes as well on the good, to take the  
 from the badde & wicked of this worlde, as followes the  
 wicked, to make Gods power knowne, and man confesse  
 his owne faults & follie. Now, if men would looke narrow-  
 ly into the sore affliction of *Flaunders*, for the space of thirty  
 yeares, they would thinke they haue had plagues ynowe  
 (if God so were pleased) besides the fearefull pestilence it  
 selfe, which of all things is most terrible, and yet the more  
 is the pittie, there cannot be a worse plague among Christi-  
 ans, than disagreement, and publique dissention, whiche is  
 to bee feared hathe taken suche deepe roote in *Flan-  
 ders*, that it wil not, nor can not be holpen, but by the  
 pollicie



pollicie of puiſſaunt Princes, and prayers of good people.

Thus farre haue I gone (Gentle Reader) to make the conceiue howe mercifully God hath dealt with our Countrey, and howe ſharply our neighbors haue bin afflicted, in a manner rounde aboute vs, whiche I wil (God willing) ſpeake of in an other volume, if ſououralby you can aſoꝛde to giue this my bare and barraine Diſcourſe your good repoꝛte, and at the leaſt (foꝛ my ſtudy and laboꝛ (althoughe you miſlike it) recompence me with ſilence, oꝛ elſe, as this was done in little time, ſo take what leſſure you liſt, and write another woꝛke of moꝛe value & weight, whiche I ſhall be as glabbe to giue commendation vnto, as I ſhall be ſoꝛie, when I knowe theſe paines haue not contented you: as witneſſeth our liuing

Loꝛde, who multiply his graces among

vs, and ſende concoꝛde and quiet

neſſe to the iarring and

troubled ſtate of

*Flanders,*

(:)

Finis of THOMAS CHVRCHYARD,



## ¶ To the VVorlde.

**G**O fillie Booke to futtle Worlde,  
and shew thy simple face,  
And forvvard passe, and do not turne  
agayne to my disgrace.  
For thou shalt bring to peoples eares  
but troth that needes not blush,  
And though Maell Bouch giue thee rebuke,  
care not for that a rush,  
For euill tongs do ytch so sore,  
they must be rubbing still  
Against the teeth, that should hold fast  
the clapper of the Mill.  
Desire those men that likes thee not,  
to lay thee doovne againe,  
Till some swete nappe, and harmelesse sleepe  
hath settled troubled brayne.  
And vwhen one house doth shutte thee out,  
creepe to another streight,  
And though thy mayster be but playne,  
yet looke thou vse some sleight  
To purchase loue, and credite both,  
for that shall breede good bloud,  
And thou vvith prayse, and honest brute,  
mayst do thy Maister good.

(K)

But

But if they reade thee in disdeyne,  
    slippe from them if thou may,  
Let enuye swell, and malice poul,  
    I heare not vvhhat they say.  
I made thee for to please the best,  
    the worst may mend the vvhile,  
So vvisedome bids thee vvelcome Booke,  
    thou mayst at folly smile.  
An ounce of prayse from vvise mens mouth,  
    wayes dovne a pound of fame,  
That fooles do giue, vvhole slender skill,  
    scarce scannes mens honest name.  
If Court embrace thee for my sake,  
    to Countrey then in post,  
Be sure then neyther thy bare vvords,  
    nor my poore vvorke is lost.  
Where Souldiours are, aduance thy selfe,  
    for though some faults they spy,  
Their martiall minds vvill make them cast  
    on thee a friendly eye.  
Among Diuines and Scholemen oft,  
    come not, but for a change,  
For at thy levvde and rubbish phrase,  
    the learned vvill looke strange.  
To men of Lavv do frelie goe,  
    for they good fellowes are,

And



And can vvith toyes sometimes vvell ease,  
the vveight of Countreys care.  
With Merchant men make thine aboade,  
vvho loues to heare of Peace :  
So shall it be, vvhen bloudie broyles  
in Flaunders ginnes to ceasse.  
Thus haue I taught thee vvhat good course  
thou oughtst of right to hold,  
Thou art a Booke, goe vvhere thou vvilt,  
like Bayard blind be bold.  
Thou shalt haue mates to follow thee,  
and help thee if thou fall.  
I haue vvide scope at vvill to vvalk,  
yea Penne and Muse at call,  
And other Bookes that I must needes  
committe to Worldes report.  
He is thrice blest that vvell doth vvorke,  
our time is heere but short.

FINIS.

